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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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ELECTRIC ENERGY USE RISES 7.6 PERCENT FROM JANUARY TO AUGUST

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Sep 83 p 35

[Text] ELETROBRAS [Brazilian Electric Power Companies, Inc.] estimated the increase in the country's electric energy consumption for the period of January to August of this year at 7.6 percent. The market anticipated by the DNAEE/GCOI [National Department of Water and Electrical Power--expansion unknown] amounts to an increase of 6.9 percent compared to the figure for the same period of time in 1982, including EGTG (energy guaranteed for a certain time).

According to ELETROBRAS, the category that records the most significant growth in the Northeast region was the industrial category because of the increase in the consumption of industrial establishments supplied directly by CHESF [San Francisco Hydroelectric Company] due to rate benefits. The general increase in that region's consumption was 11.5 percent. The growth of the market in the Northern region (the biggest consumer among all regions with an increase of 27.8 percent) continues to be influenced by the supply from ELETRONORTE [Northern Electric Power Plants] to the project construction sites of Tucuruí and Carajás as of July 1982. The intensification of supplies to townships in the interior and the links to housing areas also contributed to this growth.

In the Southeastern region, the consumption growth (5.8 percent) continues to be heavily influenced by the residential and commercial categories, as well as some industrial establishments in the metallurgical and transportation equipment industries which, in spite of domestic difficulties, managed to sell their products on the foreign market.

In the Southern region, consumption went up 8.4 percent. In contrast to the residential and commercial categories, industrial consumption here showed a smaller growth rate during this particular period of time.

This result is mainly due to the rather slight development of the market in the state of Paraná because of the cutback in the activities of the paper and cardboard as well as nonferrous minerals and food products industries.

As for the West-Central region, ELETROBRAS pointed out that the total consumption increase (15.7 percent) was primarily due to the good development of

industrial consumption in the State of Goias where the demand came to 66 percent of the total consumption volume.

This fact is explained by the expansion of a big fertilizer plant.

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CS0: 3342/5

NEW PROALCOOL PRODUCTION GOALS, PROJECTS DISCUSSED

Increased Demand Expected

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Sep 83 p 35

[Text] The new PROALCOOL [Alcohol Production Program] output target of 14.3 billion liters from the 1985-1986 harvest will provide impetus for the development of 120 sugar cane refinery projects until 1985. The total for these projects represents 60 percent of the sector's installed capacity, based mostly on domestic capital, according to Metalurgica Dedini executive vice president Waldyr Giannetti. "This was our main effort from 1978 until 1981 when there was a big drop in the demand although we did maintain a constant level," he explained.

Dedini, Zanini, and the Conger-Cosinor consortium--the three main enterprises in the sector--are responsible for 360 refinery projects out of the 460 that have been carried out since 1976, with the start of PROALCOOL; this adds up to an output capacity of 10.7 billion liters per harvest. "We have more than 50 now in progress and 30 of them are being put up in the factories," says Giannetti, revealing that Dedini handles 69 percent of the market at this time.

But the Dedini vice president has one worry, identical to the one expressed by Zanini manager Luis Lacerda Biagi last week. "Up to now we have had a very strong technological development which gives Brazil leadership in this sector. Big enterprises, such as the multinationals, want to get into the same market in view of the shrinkage of the sectors which they are servicing at this time. When that happens we can lose much of the technological advantage we gained, unless the government adopts a firm position to protect a market which already shows a high idle capacity."

In Giannetti's opinion, "the country could wind up trailing behind imported technologies if the administration were to permit the sector's pulverization. PROALCOOL within 2 years will be an energy solution for many countries that are in a position to turn agricultural products into alcohol. We must hold on to our lead also in order to be able to operate abroad," he noted.

New Program Challenges

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Sep 83 p 48

[Article by Jose Aparecido Miguel]

[Text] Brazil can soon resolve the problem of substituting more than 15 percent of the total volume of petroleum imported at this time--655,000 barrels per day--as part of a new result deriving from the National Alcohol Program of PROALCOOL, as the outcome of the work done by the government and by private initiative starting in 1976. In just 4 years, this led to the production and sale of 1 million alcohol-powered vehicles up to last week.

Now, depending upon a government policy, the country is in a position to achieve a reduction in imports by 98,000 barrels per day according to the president of the Central Cooperative of Sugar and Alcohol Producers of the State of Sao Paulo (COPERCUCAR), Jose Luiz Zillo. "We have a surplus of 7 million tons of cane bagasse per year which, if we burned it, could enable us to substitute 15 percent of our fuel oil. We would achieve the same reduction through the use of alcohol in place of gasoline and, completing the main byproduct cycle, we could replace diesel with gasoline containing additives."

Zillo added that the use of gasoline with additives is one of the alternatives now being studied by the Secretariat of Industrial Technology of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MIC). Each liter of diesel is replaced by 1.2 liter of gasoline with additives containing DNTEG (dinitrate of triethyleneglycol), whereas we need 1.67 liter of alcohol with additives for the same quantity of petroleum byproducts, used especially in mass and freight transportation.

Substitution

The COPERCUCAR president stressed that PROALCOOL is the only alternative energy substitution program in the world with specific results. In the opinion of Luis Gonzaga Bertelli, manager-superintendent of SOPRAL (Society of Sugar and Alcohol Producers), its success resides in the capacity of Brazilian private-enterprise business operators to tackle the challenge springing from the need for reducing petroleum imports.

Bertelli recalled that contradictory statements have come even from government authorities. Planning Minister Delfim Netto, for example, declared that petroleum purchases were the country's alternative. "But it was foreseeable from the very start of PROALCOOL that the day would come when Brazil would have difficulties in importing petroleum--approximately 70 percent of its requirements--as we note already today with the conclusion of short-term purchasing contracts and that is due to foreign exchange shortages."

In 1976, Brazilian alcohol output was 500,000 million liters against approximately 8 billion from the current harvest which will be completed in May of next year. "The important thing," commented Jose Luis Zillo, of COPERCUCAR, "is that 80 percent of this output are used for the purpose of substituting gasoline, both through the addition of 23 percent anhydrous alcohol, which represents a saving of 20 percent of the total pure product, and through the use

of hydrated alcohol--2.7 billion liters--a volume which is variable at this time in view of the increase in the fleet of vehicles using alternate fuel."

Alcohol consequently accounted for a foreign exchange saving of \$1.5 billion last year and this was increased to \$2 billion this year according to sector estimates, "without considering other aspects, such as the increase in the production of diesel to the detriment of gasoline, with extraction stepped up from 27 percent to 31 percent per barrel through a change in the cracking system used by PETROBRAS," Zillo emphasized.

Byproduct

Vinasse, a byproduct from sugar processing, considered a pollutant when dumped into the water, is being used for fertilizing in planting cane itself. "This amounts to a decrease in imports of chemical products, such as nitrogen and potassium which go into the makeup of vinasse," it was explained.

COPERCUCAR president Jose Luiz Zillo also said that PROALCOOL represents the creation of 350,000 direct jobs while 2 percent of the total alcohol billing volume, 1 percent of the sugar cane and 1 percent of the sugar--this year about 60 billion cruzeiros--are obligatorily used for social welfare benefits in the fields of education, health, and recreation in some cases, as well as the construction of adequate housing for company workers.

Program critics--along the lines of the example of the "invasion" of sugar cane production in food-producing areas--are considered to be a big joke by Zillo "in view of the concrete results achieved by PROALCOOL which collaborates significantly with the country and which in the future could represent its energy independence."

SOPRAL manager-superintendent Luiz Gonzaga Bertelli in turn emphasized that cane last year occupied 37,033,000 hectares of land against 12 million for corn, 8 million for soybeans, and 6 million for rice. "So, are we supposed to be criticizing soybeans? No, what is happening is that we are planting too little in Brazil."

The PROALCOOL output target for the 1984-1985 harvest is 10.5 billion and for the next one it is 14.3 billion. "We have an agricultural area of 300 million hectares and in 1985 sugar cane should occupy about 5.2 million," the COPERCUCAR president concluded.

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CSO: 3342/5

PETROBRAS OFFICIAL'S DEPARTURE ATTRIBUTED TO PRODUCTION DIFFICULTIES

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Sep 83 p 35

[Text] PETROBRAS [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] production superintendent Mauricio Alvarenga revealed yesterday that he will leave the office which he has been holding for almost 5 years within, at most, a month. Alvarenga, who did not indicate the causes of his dismissal, will take over other functions in the management of PETROFLEX [expansion unknown], the old synthetic rubber factory of the group, currently linked to PETROQUISA [PETROBRAS Chemical Corporation], a subsidiary of the state enterprise for the chemical sector.

"I will stay in my job for about a month to take care of some problems before leaving," Alvarenga said; he is one of the most senior officials of the government enterprise and his departure is being attributed, within PETROBRAS, to difficulties that arose in the production sector due to the reduction of enterprise investments.

About 2 months ago, Alvarenga gave an interview to the press, pointing out that the enterprise was working on increasing the output of its petroleum production equipment in view of the need for saving money. He emphasized that an adequate projection of inflation was a fundamental thing for the enterprise investment budget so that the output goals by the end of the year would be assured.

According to repeated reports from the enterprise and from Mining and Energy Minister Cesar Cals, those goals were 400,000 barrels per day until the end of 1983 and 500,000 barrels per day until 1985 on a daily average; the targets for this year have already been revised and it is anticipated that a figure of 34,000 barrels per day will be attained.

According to information obtained yesterday at PETROBRAS, these targets might be hampered by the difficulties encountered in the procurement of equipment abroad; this equipment is destined for the sector managed by Alvarenga and it is under the responsibility of PETROBRAS production manager Joel Renno who was in Brasilia yesterday. According to those reports, the daily average output target of 340,000 barrels this year would already be difficult to attain since extraction until August did not exceed 324,000 barrels per day.

In some way, Mauricio Alvarenga, considered one of the most competent technicians in PETROBRAS, belonged to the enterprise's first generation (1958) and was the

man responsible for the installation of the major portion of the early production systems which enabled the enterprise to jump from an output of 170,000 barrels per day in 1979, when he took over as superintendent, to 350,000 barrels per day as recorded this month.

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CSO: 3342/5

BRIEFS

OIL STOCK DISCREPANCIES--Mining and Energy Minister Cesar Cals yesterday denied that there were any disagreements between the members of the energy sector regarding the real volume of petroleum stockpiles although PETROBRAS [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] president Shigeaki Ueki, in recent testimony to the Chamber, said that current stockpiles are sufficient for the consumption volume of 85 days and after that PETROBRAS sales manager Carlos Sant'Anna asserted that stockpiles were enough for only 35 days. According to the minister, there is no discrepancy in the statements made by these two PETROBRAS managers. "This is only a question of interpretation," said Cals, explaining that the stockpiles Ueki was talking about include the petroleum in ships on the way to Brazil and that the quantity mentioned by Sant'Anna only represents the petroleum which is already in the country. [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Sep 83 p 35] 5058

CSO: 3342/5

BRIEFS

ECUADOREAN GEOLOGISTS BACK--Prime Minister Fernando Schwalb and Minister of Interior Luis Percovich Roca denied yesterday that Ecuadorean citizens who were returned to their country of origin by the Peruvian Government yesterday morning are involved in subversion or carried out espionage activities. Percovich Roca reported that the 19 Ecuadoreans among whom is a woman, through a regrettable error in their bearings, entered Peru by way of the Iquitos oil-producing region while they were engaged in geological prospecting on Ecuadorean territory for account of and under the direction of their country's government. At 1500 hours in the afternoon last Sunday, the Ecuadorean citizens were found in the border zone by members of the Peruvian Army. From there they were taken to the city of Iquitos before being transferred to Lima. On his part Prime Minister Schwalb maintained categorically that it was proven that the Ecuadoreans did not carry out any type of criminal activity in Peru and that the Peruvian Government granted them every type of assistance regarding accommodation and transportation. Schwalb Lopez Aldana informed the media that Peru has signed a report with Ecuador in which the governments of both countries clearly agreed that the 19 Ecuadoreans strayed because of their unfamiliarity with the border area and that during their stay in Peru they did not experience any kind of hitch or mistreatment. [Excerpts] [Lima EL OBSERVADOR in Spanish 13 Sep 83 p 3] 2662

CSO: 3348/1

PLP YOUTH ARM UNCOVERS 'DANGEROUS' ANTI-TOURIST CAMPAIGN

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 31 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

THE YOUNG Liberals, the youth arm of the PLP, said it has learned that starting next Monday, "certain political forces" and some "social malcontents will begin a silent, but dangerous anti-tourist campaign".

The Liberals in a statement said they understood that as part of the campaign, tourists will be harassed and made to feel unwelcome and unsafe.

They pointed out that the Student Action National Party (SNAP) earlier in the year announced that it would undertake an anti-tourist campaign. However, it has never, in fact, been confirmed that the statement to which the Liberals refer was released with the knowledge or approval of the SNAP leadership. One of the leaders disassociated herself completely from the statement which said that an anti-tourist campaign would be started and that suspended students would "be assigned to the airport, docks and strategic areas of Bay Street to carry out a verbal, anti-tourist campaign". Questions were raised at the

time as to who drafted and released the statement in the name of the students.

"We also recall that SNAP was openly lauded and supported in its anti-government stance by the Free National Movement, the Workers Party and the Vanguard Party and executives of the Bahamas Union of Teachers," the Liberals claimed.

"At the time we dismissed the threat of an anti-tourist campaign as mere political foot-balling but now, in light of our most recent information, and in light of (Monday) night's fire at the D W Davis Junior High School, we believe that there are forces within our country whose minds are sufficiently warped so as to engage in an anti-tourist campaign," the Liberals claimed.

They said an anti-tourist campaign would be an anti-Bahamas campaign "and as such, we will not sit idly by and see a few devious and destructive misfits attempt to destroy our beloved country and its bread and butter industry."

CSO: 3298/042

ISAACS URGES OPPOSITION TO U.S. STAND ON BANK SECRECY

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 14 Sep 83 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

OPPOSITION Leader Kendal Isaacs today called on the Bahamas to join forces with three European countries to try to stop the United States breaching the banking secrecy laws of the Bahamas.

The Shadow Minister of Finance made his remarks after it was learned that the Bank of Nova Scotia turned over records of one of its customers to a federal grand jury in Florida to avoid a \$25,000 a day (\$9 million a year) fine.

Unconfirmed reports indicate that the Bank of Nova Scotia (Canada) turned over the Bahama bank's records from its head office in Toronto. If this is in fact correct, the Nassau bank branch may possibly have got around the consequences of handing over the documents from Nassau. However, Scotia Bank official Robert Haines could not be contacted to comment on this today.

The Tribune understands that pressure is now being put on Chase Manhattan Bank in the Bahamas to release information on Columbus Trust, which is under investigation by US authorities. Columbus Trust's licence was suspended by Governor-General Sir Gerald Cash on March 25.

Mr Isaacs said that the US is also trying to pressure the United Kingdom, West Germany, France and other European countries into softening their banking secrecy

laws.

He said that the pressure by the US is being viewed as an attempt to exercise extra-territorial jurisdiction.

Under Bahamian law, banks can apply to the Supreme Court for permission to release confidential information, but only after a person is charged with an offence.

However, Mr Isaacs said the Bahamas and several European countries are being asked to supply the US with information before any charges are brought against anybody.

"It is not just a Bahamian problem," Mr Isaacs, a QC and former Attorney General, said.

"This is a point on which I certainly agree with the Government. It's got to be opposed ... and I think the matter should be taken up with all others concerned," he said, adding that there should be a "round-table" discussion on the matter.

Under Bahamian law, any bank found guilty of releasing confidential information without the approval of the court or customer may be fined no more than \$15,000 - a pittance compared to the \$25,000 a day fine imposed by the Federal Grand Jury.

The question now is: What action, if any, can the Attorney General take against Scotia Bank's head office for releasing confidential information without the court's approval,

and what can be done to stop other banks from following the precedent?

Asked what he would do if he were Attorney General, Mr Isaacs said: "I think at this stage it's not something I would leave to the Attorney General alone. I think the Government has got to step in and make a policy decision as to how far they are prepared to go to stop this thing."

He suggested that Government meet with the banking community and consult with the Bank of England over the matter.

"I think the solution would be more of a diplomatic than a legal one," he said.

Mr Isaacs said that if Government increased the penalty for releasing confidential information, it would only make it more difficult for banks to operate in the Bahamas.

"If the penalties are increased, that might only succeed in driving them (banks) out," he warned. "I think more would be achieved through high-level, diplomatic discussions."

Mr Isaacs said the Scotia Bank case will obviously cause a lot of concern to US banks with branches in the Bahamas.

"Any bank in the Bahamas that has a branch office to the US, they would certainly be in jeopardy of having similar proceedings brought against them," he said.

"I think what will happen - in fact, it's probably happening

already - is that banks in the Bahamas will be more careful about what accounts they open, new customers will be screened very carefully before they can open up an account."

Mr Isaacs said that while the position taken by the US could hurt our banking industry, "you must remember that more than 50 per cent of the off-shore banking done in the Bahamas" is not done out of the US, but from South America and Europe.

"It won't kill the industry, but it can hurt it," he said.

He also predicted that domestic banks will be more careful about who they take deposits from because "there is no question that attempts are made all the time to launder hot money, drug money."

Attorney-General Paul Adderley filed a writ in the Supreme Court August 29 asking for an injunction to prevent the Bank of Nova Scotia from breaching the secrecy laws by turning over confidential information on one of its customers to US authorities.

The US Supreme Court on August 25 ordered that if the records were not turned over by August 29, the bank would have to pay a \$25,000 a day fine. The bank was already paying a \$500 a day fine when the ruling was handed down. It is believed that the bank handed over the documents August 26.

If this were the case, then the Attorney General's injunction would be meaningless.

UK PROMISES TO ASSIST IN SETTING UP FREE TRADE ZONE

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 13 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

JOHN EDWARDS, a senior British official in the Foreign and Commonwealth office, has pledged Britain's support and cooperation in the Bahamas' efforts to establish a free trade zone.

Mr Edwards is head of the West Indian and Atlantic Department of the FCO and is directly responsible for Anglo/Bahamian Affairs.

During a press conference at the British High Commission yesterday Mr Edwards said he was pleased at the warmth expressed for Britain by Bahamians and the strength of the links between the two countries.

Mr Edwards, who visited the Bahamas briefly, said he was pleased to see that the Bahamas has taken an increased role in the world and that this country has a greater role to play in Caribbean and world affairs.

Mr Edwards, who arrived in Nassau Sunday and left for Jamaica yesterday afternoon, was Head of the British Development Division in the Caribbean, located in Barbados and was also concurrently UK Director of the Caribbean Development Bank.

He said the progress made by the Bahamas over the past ten

years since Independence from Britain has been "extraordinary", adding that this country has been able to progress economically as an independent country.

He pointed out that the Bahamas already has a flourishing Defence Force, while other Caribbean countries are just developing their Defence Force.

Touching on the Caribbean Basin Initiative, which recently received US Congressional approval, Mr Edwards said the Bahamas should benefit from this, mainly because of its proximity to the United States.

Stopping off in the Bahamas, on his way to the St Kitts/Nevis Independence celebrations, Mr Edwards met with several government Ministers - yesterday and had a "confidential exchange of views." Although he did not meet with the Prime Minister because of his trip to New York yesterday, Mr Edwards did meet with Mrs Margaret McDonald, Cabinet Secretary.

He also met with Minister of Economic Affairs Alfred Maycock yesterday afternoon, and was guest of honour at a luncheon at the home of British High Commissioner Peter Heap.

AGRICULTURAL LAND TOTALING 238,000 ACRES UNDERUTILIZED

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 30 Aug 83 p 7

[Article by Colin Higgins]

[Text]

SOME 238,000 acres of "prime agricultural land" has been identified in the Bahamas by the Bahamas Land Resources Survey but only 12,000 acres of it is presently under production, former director of Agriculture Dr Godfrey Eneas told delegates at the annual Youth Conference of the Anglican Diocese August 24.

One of several speakers who, last week, addressed conference-members from Jamaica, Barbados, southeast Florida, the Family Islands and New Providence, Dr Eneas spoke on "Low income Farming" and said the lot of the small grower has been "greatly enhanced" over the past fifteen years.

This was due, he said, to the construction of farm feeder roads which have enabled more land to be brought into production and allowed growers to transport harvests more easily; construction of packing houses in the main farming localities; the placement of professionally trained agricultural extension officers on the main islands of production and the improvement in farming techniques by the introduction of improved seed varieties, chemical fertilizers, pesticides, etc.

"During the decade of the 70's," Dr Eneas said, "the Government embarked on programmes of economic diversification of the Bahamian economy in order to decrease the country's dependency on tourism.

"One of the areas which was chosen as having the potential for diversification was agriculture."

The small grower has been the backbone of the food production system in the Bahamas for almost five centuries, the speaker said.

The majority of small growers in the Bahamas cultivate between one and two acres under mixed cropping conditions with peas, beans, cassava and corn as staples and tomatoes, watermelons, onions and potatoes as cash crops.

"Most small growers are in the 45 to 54 age group generally with a primary level of education and farming experience of more than ten years."

In 1973 the Bahamas Agricultural Research Training and Development Project (BARTAD) was born and also in that year several hundred acres of "new land" in various parts of the Bahamas was brought into production, Dr Eneas told the delegates.

"Through BARTAD, the technical capabilities of a cadre of Bahamian farmers were vastly improved as the development of 40 to 80 acre family farms became a reality."

Farms were organized in a combination of farming activities such as vegetables, orchard trees and livestock in order that the farmer could have an income comparable to those in tourism or construction, he said.

"Sixteen satellite farms were established and it was demonstrated that with proper management Bahamian farmers can have an income in the range of \$40,000 per annum."

The speaker reported that agricultural production has increased from 10.5 million dollars in 1974 to 27.0 million dollars in 1981.

He called the development of co-operatives an important innovation which has been introduced to improve the economic lot of the small grower. Of a number of agricultural co-operatives perhaps the most successful is the North Andros Co-operative Society, he said, where farmers have extended themselves into export marketing of their produce.

"We in the Bahamas have taken the food supply and availability for granted," Dr Eneas told delegates, adding that by the year 2,000 a world population of more than 6 billion will require an agricultural output some 50 to 60 per cent greater than in 1980.

CSO: 3298/042

ARCHER CASE HELPS SPUR UNION-GOVERNMENT DISPUTE

FNM Appeal to Pindling

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 26 Aug 83 pp 1, 11

[Article by Marcia Bethell]

[Text]

THE FREE National Movement has suggested that Government representatives agree to meet with representatives from BUT and other public service unions in an effort to "reduce tensions and reach a peaceful settlement."

They have also suggested that a "broad revision" of the "outdated" General Orders be made so that the relations between government and the public service unions can be brought more into line with modern democratic thinking and practice.

Outlining her ideas on what changes should be made in the General Orders, FNM member of Yamacraw, and former secretary-general of the Public Service Union, Janet Bostwick, said that the Orders are too "archaic" and much too long. She said that one change that must be made is the order that states if the wife of a public servant speaks out on a particular matter her husband is held responsible for her actions.

During a press conference held this morning at FNM headquarters, Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs said that government ministers, instead of showing some sign of conciliatory attitude in their current series of public meetings, are engaged in a "crusade of intimidation, hatred and division among the people."

"They are trying to put parents against teachers and they are doing so, astonishingly enough, in the name of the children," Mr Isaacs pointed out. "The truth is that the PLP government has created this crisis through their own high-handedness and hard-headedness. What they are doing now will only cause a bad situation to get worse, and the very ones they proclaim to care so much for --- the children --- will be the big losers," Mr Isaacs said.

The FNM has called on Government to seize a last opportunity for "mature and statesmanlike" action and defuse the situation before it gets worse.

"Some conciliatory move which would lead to the negotiating table would show that government is sincere in wanting to achieve the best interests of the nation's school children and the nation as a whole," Mr Isaacs said. "Anything short of this would justify one's coming to the conclusion that Government is merely trying to provoke a crisis which would enable them to suppress dissent over the real issue facing this nation or even to blame others for their failure to handle them."

Mr Isaacs said he was referring to the "continued inability" of the government to bring about the economic expansion necessary to find jobs for

Bahamian people, the "rampant crime" which causes Bahamians to live in daily fear for their lives, and the failure of government to produce an adequate educational system. He said he was also referring to the deterioration of the infrastructure in New Providence and the family islands and the general run-down conditions in the country.

"These issues will not go away and it is our duty to keep them constantly before the public because until we have a government capable of dealing with these issues and finding solutions to these problems, there will be no real peace, no tranquility and no sense of security in our nation," Mr Isaacs said.

The Free National Movement has denied any association in the planning of the teachers demonstration, stressing that Mr Archer is not a member of the FNM party, has no arrangement with them and has been promised no reward by them.

Referring to remarks made by Deputy Prime Minister Hanna, who was quoted as saying "Why would Leonard Archer put his job on the line? They probably promised him a greater reward," Mr Isaacs stressed:

"The FNM's chief role in this dispute between the Government and the Bahamas Union of Teachers has been to urge restraint and at no time did our party ever seek to direct or influence any course of action on the part of the BUT," Mr Isaacs said.

Saying that the FNM is committed to the defence of the

rights and freedom of all Bahamian people, regardless of their political beliefs, Mr Isaacs said that the FNM is also opposed to the victimization of any Bahamian because of his political convictions or because he chooses to exercise his constitutional rights and freedoms.

"It is our opinion that the unequal enforcement of General Orders against those who are in dispute with the government to be nothing less than victimization and discrimination and we believe that this is exactly what has happened in the case of Mr Archer," Mr Isaacs said. "We have witnessed the abuse of the Civil Service in the political interests of the PLP and we have seen senior Civil Servants who support the PLP blatantly violate General Orders while openly getting involved in politics on behalf of the PLP. On the other hand, supporters of the FNM in and out of the Civil Service have been victimized, intimidated and discriminated against in a most vicious fashion," Mr Isaacs said.

Mr Isaacs also said that the FNM has called on the Government through the press, at public meetings and in the House of Assembly to "desist" from this "wicked, ungodly and unconstitutional practice" and has warned the government repeatedly about the bitterness generated in the nation because of it.

"All our pleas have fallen on deaf ears, and so we have common cause with those who protest against victimization and discrimination despite the fact that we might not share their political ideology," Mr

Isaacs said.

The FNM also condemned the Prime Minister for "unkind remarks" he made about the Rev Carlton Francis during his speech at Uriah McPhee Primary School last week.

"Ministers of the Government sometimes pretend to be peacemakers and statesmen as they talk from various platforms, including church pulpits. However, it is on occasions like these that the truth comes out and the real nature of the PLP beast is revealed," Mr Isaacs said. "We recall statements made in the past about Leonard 'Boston Blackie' Miller and the gentleman at ZNS who was snobbishly referred to as a 'mere messenger' by Minister of Youth, Sports and Community Affairs Kendal Nottage."

"It is precisely this kind of arrogant behaviour which has helped to degrade the conduct of public affairs in this country and set such bad example for the younger generation for whom the PLP now expresses such concern.

"Mr Francis has served his country in many fields," Mr Isaacs said. "He has been a teacher, a trade unionist, a Member of Parliament, a Minister of Mr Pindling's Cabinet and a Minister of the gospel. Sir Lynden owes him and the nation an apology for the ill-considered and shameful way he attempted to ridicule this outstanding Bahamian because severe illness over the last several years has taken its toll of his physical appearance. We sympathize with Mr Francis and his family and we assure them of our continued respect and affection," Mr Isaacs said.

TUC-Pindling Talks

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 27 Aug 83 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Excerpts]

TRADE Union Congress leaders discussed Government's forced retirement of its Secretary-General this morning in a "very cordial" one and a half hour meeting with Prime Minister Sir

Lynden Pindling at the Cabinet Office in the Churchill Building.

And the TUC will hold a meeting tonight to give its members the details of the discussion between the Prime

Minister and three executives of its union about Mr Leonard Archer, who was forced to retire as principal of R M Bailey High School in the "public interest".

The TUC was led in the discussion by President Arlington Miller. Other executives present included first vice president Charles Bethel and second vice president Leroy "Duke" Hanna.

The three union leaders went into the meeting with the Prime Minister at 9 am and came out at 10:30 am.

"We had a meeting," said a tight-lipped Mr Miller, who is also president of the Bahamas Public Services Union. "We got the Prime Minister to meet with us."

"We will really work from where we stand," Mr Miller added. "We will develop as we go on."

The TUC chief also said: "If there is a need, we will arrange

another meeting."

However, Mr Miller declined to reveal the nature of the discussion with the Prime Minister or the results of the meeting.

TUC First Vice President Bethel, who is also president of the militant Bahamas Communications and Public Officers Union, said the TUC asked for the meeting with the Prime Minister.

Mr Bethel said the TUC executives met with the Prime Minister on behalf of Mr Archer, who was retired by Government on July 31.

"It was cordial, very cordial," said Mr Bethel.

The TUC has thrown its full support behind Mr Archer and has held a rally on the Southern Recreation Grounds calling the action taken against Mr Archer a threat against other unions, especially those unions that

represent public servants.

In addition, the TUC had planned a rally for tonight, but it was postponed to Friday, September 2, when members will be informed of the "great day" threat by union leaders in their battle against Government.

Government responded to the TUC's announcement of a "great day" with a press statement of its own warning civil servants that they will face disciplinary action if they disrupt the normal operation of the public services by withdrawing their labour.

Denouncing the threat as an "outright act of intimidation," Mr Bethel warned that the union will have to meet Government at the crossroads.

Mr Miller said the Government warning, made by Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Hanna last week, meant that everyone who cannot say "Yes, sir, boss", will be victimized.

Pindling at PLP Rally

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 30 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER Pindling last night criticised embattled Teachers Union president Leonard Archer for not appealing his case to the Public Service Board and warned that teachers who take part in sit-ins when school opens next Monday won't get paid.

Addressing the third and largest rally the PLP has held to give their position on the premature "retirement" of Mr Archer as a school principal "in the public interest", Sir Lynden said that Mr Archer doesn't have much faith in his own case or else he would "put his money where his mouth is."

Between 800-1,000 people, many of them children, attended the rally at Christie Park. ZNS Radio announced yesterday that all PLP constituency meetings for last night were cancelled and invited all area groups to go to the rally at Christie Park instead.

Sir Lynden told the crowd that there were two reasons why Mr Archer wouldn't take his case to the Public Service Board

of Appeal or Supreme Court.

(1) "He doesn't believe in his own case enough to put his money where his mouth is. (It is, in fact, known, that Mr Archer intends to take his case to the Supreme Court)."

(2) "Teachers don't believe in Mr Archer's case enough to put their money where his mouth is. Neither he nor the BUT intend to appeal before the Public Service Board of Appeal or the Supreme Court anyhow. Instead they prefer to hold both of those lawfully constituted bodies in contempt."

Mr Archer, in fact, wrote to the Public Services Commission asking for the opportunity to appear before it with a lawyer and witnesses. His request was ignored and he was dismissed without a hearing.

Sir Lynden said that a statement made by Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Hanna last week, warning that public servants who take part in demonstrations won't be paid for time spent off the job, was made "with the full consent of

his colleagues."

"He was acting as the spokesman for the whole Government. It was alleged in certain sectors that the statement was a joke. This was no (joke). It was a statement for the information of the innocent general public, who may have their rights trampled on," Sir Lynden said.

He said there was no major trade dispute before the Ministry of Labour and that a strike vote taken by the Pilots Union last week was not in accordance with the law.

On the matter of sit-ins, Sir Lynden warned that "people who turn up at school and don't teach" are just as bad as those who don't show up at all.

He once again blamed the Vanguard Socialist Party and right-wing Free National Movement of trying to gain political mileage out of the

Archer affair.

"There is ample evidence to show that the radical wing of the FNM would welcome a confrontation. Although both Vanguard and Workers Party members were in Rawson Square on Wednesday, the 10th, and Wednesday the 17th, it was the FNM that took the lead in making the most noise and causing the greatest obstruction," he said.

"The FNM sought to take over the demonstrations and capitalize on the issue, but both interventions by the FNM backfired," Sir Lynden claimed.

"In typical fashion the FNM tried to get the best of both worlds and are prepared to further politicise the civil service and ferment disaffection and disorder for purely political reasons," he said.

TUC Public Statement

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 1 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

IN THE interest of "law, order, justice and fairplay" the Trade Union Congress today urged Government to recommend to the Public Service Commission that it set aside its decision to prematurely "retire" R M Bailey principal Leonard Archer and conduct a proper hearing into the charges against him.

"In the event that Government does not change its mind, a long and costly legal battle is anticipated," warned the TUC as it appealed to all "concerned citizens to make financial contributions to the Bahamas Union of Teachers' Legal Defence Fund, which has been established at the Bank of Nova Scotia's main branch".

In its first public statement since three of its executives met with Prime Minister Pindling at his Cabinet office on Monday to discuss the Archer affair, the TUC warned that Government's plan to re-employ retired persons to replace public sector workers will "backfire because the Bahamian people will not stand for it."

"The TUC understands,"

said the union statement, "that the Government is now hiring teachers abroad without interviewing them, and have asked retired teachers to be prepared to be re-employed. The TUC has heard that other retired persons have been asked to be ready to be employed in other areas of the public service. What the Government appears to be doing is to be in readiness to do a Ronald Reagan in the Bahamas, and dismiss public sector workers."

This was a reference to President Reagan's handling of the air traffic controllers strike last year when the U S administration ordered 13,000 striking controllers to go back to work or be fired. When 12,000 members of the union ignored the ultimatum, government sent out dismissal notices. Those controllers who did not go back to work were replaced.

The TUC also announced plans for a Freedom, Justice and Fairplay Rally for 6:30 pm tomorrow at the Southern Recreation grounds, following Government's series of Law and

Order rallies, the last of which is to be held tonight at the Golden Gates shopping centre.

The TUC rally will begin tomorrow with a candlelight procession, which begins at the Southern Recreation Grounds, and proceeds to Chapel Street, Market Street and back to the Grounds. The TUC has invited all trade union leaders and members, including the unions not affiliated with TUC, to attend the rally.

Explaining its appeal for contributions to the teachers Legal Defence Fund, the union says that if Government does not change its mind in the Archer firing, "a long and costly legal battle is anticipated". However, should Government change its mind the special fund "for the protection of the rights of all workers will be established by the TUC from the contributions".

The Trade Union Congress will also join the trade unions in Grand Bahama in a mass rally on Monday, September 5th, when the TUC leadership will attend the rally and speak on the issues.

In its release the TUC said it was "pleased that the Prime Minister has at last realized that the Government's firing of Mr A Leonard Archer has raised issues which are far larger than Mr Archer."

Continued the release: "The Trade Union Movement recognized this fact from the moment Mr Archer received his first letters from the Ministry of Education, and we are pleased that the Prime Minister is at last seeing his Government's actions in the proper perspective.

"We agree with the Prime Minister that the real issue is what kind of Bahamas do we want. The TUC recognized immediately that the Government's action raised issues of the freedom of trade unions to function as trade unions; the issue of freedom of speech; the issue of justice, fairness and due process, and whether individuals, including Mr A Leonard Archer, have the right to exercise them. The issue is indeed whether democracy - which requires law, order, justice and fairplay - is indeed a part of the Bill of Rights of every Bahamian citizen, including Mr A Leonard Archer.

"The TUC hopes now that the Prime Minister has recognized the real issue, that he will desist from his undignified campaign against Mr Archer, and will end his attempts to arouse the emotions of his supporters against Mr Archer, the teachers and all trade union leaders and members. His Government's call for vigilante action by PLP supporters, and

his call for a confrontation between parents and teachers, is the very opposite of Law, Order, Justice and Fairplay.

"The TUC calls upon Government, in the interest of Law, Order, Justice and Fairplay, to recommend to the Public Service Commission to set aside its decision, and to conduct a proper hearing into the charges made against Mr Archer. Since it was the Government, through its agencies, the Ministry of Education and the department of Public Personnel, which made the recommendation to the Public Service Commission that Mr Archer be retired in the public interest, then we can see no reason why the Government cannot be big enough to send another recommendation to the Public Service Commission requesting that they review their decision to retire Mr Archer in the public interest, a decision, which many members of the public do not regard as being taken in their interest, and which is causing so much anguish in this nation.

"The TUC wishes to remind the Government that it is the Government which has provoked the present crisis by taking an action which the unions warned could cause a confrontation. Therefore if a confrontation occurs, the blame must be laid squarely at the feet of the Government."

Isaacs at FNM Rally

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 1 Sep 83 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Excerpts]

FREE National Movement Leader Kendal Isaacs told a rally last night that the Progressive Liberal Party Government is "running scared," and that the salvation of the country depends on Bahamians standing up to defend their freedoms.

Mr Isaacs, MP for Delaporte, also charged that the PLP are holding their law and order rallies in an attempt to frighten and intimidate the people through threats in order to divert their attention from the Government's management of the economy and neglect of the

country's infrastructures.

"I think all of us over the last few months must have realized that the PLP is running scared. Not even the opposition has held as many public meetings," Mr Isaacs told over 400 persons attending the party's "Report To The People" rally at the A F Adderley auditorium.

Also speaking at the rally were Blue Hills MP Arthur Foulkes, Carmichael MP Frank Watson, former Speaker Arlington Butler, Torchbearers President Tommy Turnquest and Torchbearers Students Ac-

tion Committee chairman Carl Bethel.

Mr Isaacs said that threats of intimidation were made by speakers at recent PLP rallies and even the pilots, whose union has taken a strike vote against Bahamasair, were threatened.

He said that remarks by PLP Ministers were certainly threats and "if such is such", then there could be confrontation and there could be violence.

Crying shame on the Government for such threats and intimidation, Mr Isaacs said he was proud of the Torchbearers who took part in a peaceful demonstration on Bay Street two weeks ago.

"I emphasize peaceful de-

monstration because to my observation, that is exactly what it was," he said.

He said that because the young people jeered and booed Government members, the police were deliberately set upon them and committed acts of violence against them.

"You know, it was more deliberate than a lot of us realized, because the ones who were arrested had been decided upon and the one person they were instructed not to arrest was Mr Leonard Archer," said Mr Isaacs.

The FNM Leader said he saw Mr Archer being dragged across the street by policemen on the television screen. He did not see him trying to run away, as

Prime Minister Pindling had claimed at one of his "Law and Order" rallies.

He said that the PLP won the last election through fear, intimidation and cheating and implored Bahamians from Grand Bahama to Inagua not to let happen in 1987 what occurred in 1982.

He said that Bahamians must realize that the PLP are profiting from running the Government while the people are suffering and that the PLP will not lie down and let the FNM or any other party take over.

He asked Bahamians to put their fear aside and recognize that the next election may be the last to have an opportunity to freely choose a government.

Anti-Union Charge

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 1 Sep 83 pp 1, 14

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

FORMER Tourism Minister Arthur Foulkes declared last night that the official opposition Free National Movement is 100 per cent together on the Leonard Archer issue and is the only party in the country that has no designs on the trade union movement.

Mr Foulkes, the FNM MP for Blue Hills, also charged that Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling is anti-trade union and is trying to smash the union movement in the Bahamas.

Telling hundreds of FNM supporters at the party's "Report To The People" rally at the A F Adderley auditorium that the PLP Government has seen its own handwriting on the wall, Mr Foulkes criticized the Prime Minister for ridiculing former Cabinet Minister Rev Carlton Francis.

Mr Foulkes was one of several speakers attending the rally, the first by the FNM since Mr Archer, president of the Bahamas Union of Teachers and secretary general of the Trade Union Congress, was retired from the public service as a teacher on July 31.

Mr Foulkes told the crowd that the handwriting on the wall

is not the handwriting of the FNM, the BUT or that of Mr Archer, but is the handwriting of the PLP Government.

Commenting on the attack on Mr Francis by the Prime Minister at a recent PLP rally, Mr Foulkes said that the FNM had told the Bahamian people 13 years ago that the PLP Government was "petty, spiteful and vindictive."

He said that the Prime Minister goes from church to church talking about healing wounds.

"Healing what wounds? He is a master at opening wounds," said Mr Foulkes. "His attack on Carl Francis was an attempt to open a wound in the heart of a man who has served his country well. He was attempting to open a wound in the heart of a man who has suffered illness for the past seven years."

Mr Foulkes said that the Prime Minister attempted to open a wound in the heart of Mr Francis' family and the attack was cruel, devoid of sensitivity and totally lacking in compassion.

He said that Mr Francis was the Prime Minister's colleague

for many years and was his Minister of Finance and one of those who fought to bring the Prime Minister to power then left when his conscience would no longer allow him to remain in the PLP.

"Suppose we start making fun of people because of their physical appearances," Mr Foulkes said. "Just imagine if we start talking about how tall who is and just imagine if we start talking about who eye needs focusing."

"When we were being made, none of us had the power to say I want to be short, none of us had the power to say I want to have green or blue eyes, none of us had the power to say I want this or that or the other thing, whether it is an eye that is out of focus or a body made small by disease," he said.

Calling the Prime Minister an anti-trade union leader who is attempting to smash the trade union movement in the Bahamas, Mr Foulkes said that the Prime Minister has charmed and cajoled trade unions through an iniquitous marriage called the Memorandum of Understanding.

He noted that Salem MP David Knowles, former president of the TUC and the Hotel Union, and South Beach MP Edward Bobby Glinton, secretary general of the hotel union, were elected to power under the arrangement of the memorandum, dissolved by the PLP prior to the 1982 general elections.

He said that Mr Knowles is now a consultant to Resorts International on the opposite side of the table from the working man.

"The Memorandum of Understanding was nothing but a sell out, a crude deception of the working people," Mr Foulkes declared.

"We say that the record will show that there is one political party in this country that has no designs on the trade union movement and that party is the Free National Movement," he said.

"We do not want a marriage with them, we do not want to prostitute them, we do not want the trade union movement to become an appendage of the FNM and we do not want to

become an appendage of any trade union either," Mr Foulkes added.

He pointed out that once the leaders of trade unions are under the discipline of a political party, then they are no longer free as trade unions.

On the Prime Minister's charge that the FNM is split down the middle on the Archer issue, Mr Foulkes said: "Now, you see, Mr Pindling is living in the past, because there is no split in our organization. Our party is 100 per cent on this issue."

"What we say is that we care. Stop victimizing whether it is Archer or whoever. Whether it is a Marxist, a PLP or a Vanguard, whatever, don't victimize," he said.

He said that in the House of Assembly, the Prime Minister looks across the green carpet at the 11 FNM members and wonders if he could only split them.

"But there is no split," Mr Foulkes declared. "There will be no split because we know where we are going."

Mr Foulkes said the FNM is headed for the Churchill Building and all the ministries and that the party intends to get there peacefully and all together.

Mr Foulkes also balked at the PLP law and order rallies noting that during the historic vote of no confidence against the Prime Minister in the early 1970s, PLP supporters outside the House could be heard shouting out for the 'Dissident Eight' to be killed. (Mr Foulkes was one of the Dissident Eight who left the Pindling government).

"This certain lady stood up on the floor of the House and said after the vote, 'now we know where we are going'." Mr Foulkes recalled. "We knew too where they were going. They were going straight to hell and we did not mind that ... their going straight to hell, but we were afraid they were going to take the country along with them."

"And this hell has been created by the PLP Government," he said. "Archer is not in power, the FNM is not in power, the Vanguard is not in

power. The PLP Government is in power."

He said that he wonders if Mr Archer knew what his mistake was that caused him to be retired in the public interest by the Governor-General on the advice of the Public Services Commission.

"I, for one, am convinced that Mr Archer would not have been reported to the Public Service Commission until he got in a public fight with the Lady," Mr Foulkes said. "When you cross the Lady, I can tell you, you are in trouble."

Mr Foulkes also said he agreed with Prime Minister Sir Lynden when he said that the issue is not Mr Archer and told the crowd present that the Prime Minister, his ruling Progressive Liberal Party Government and victimization are the issues.

On the issue of whether the actions of the BUT in demonstrating outside parliament several weeks ago were legal or not, Mr Foulkes said that the 1958 general strike was illegal and it happened because the issue was bigger than whether or not the strike was legal.

He said that in 1965, the Prime Minister sat in the middle of Bay Street, threw the Mace out of the window of the House of Assembly and became the first Member of Parliament to wear a placard inside the House - not former Coconut Grove MP Edmund Moxey.

He recalled that not too long ago, the Prime Minister and PLP members picketed the Bahamas Oil Refining Company in Freeport, Grand Bahama without having an industrial dispute.

According to Mr Foulkes, Mr Archer did not bring parliament into disrepute, but the PLP does so at just about every sitting, including the last sitting when they debated a salary increase to parliamentarians throughout the night of August 17, and the 1983 Budget in two days.

At every meeting, he said, no member breaks the rules more than House Leader and Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Hanna, who next to the Speaker, is most responsible for upholding the rules of the House.

Minister on Disciplinary Changes

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 2 Sep 83 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Excerpt]

EDUCATION Minister Darrell Rolle declared last night that neither he, nor his ministry will become involved in "any secret deal" with the Bahamas Union of Teachers to deduct \$20 from each of the nation's 2,300 educators' salaries to go towards the legal fund of retired BUT President Leonard Archer.

The Minister also said that this will be the first time in the history of the Bahamas that a new school year will start off with "a plan of sorts" - a sit-in by the BUT - that only parents can control.

In his lengthy address to a Law and Order rally called by the PLP at the Golden Gates Shopping Centre, the Minister said Government will not allow

the country's educational institutions to slip any further. It has put on the brakes, he said.

Mr Rolle said his Ministry has started a review of the disciplinary process in the schools and other aspects of the teaching functions to set new guidelines that are clear enough so that nobody can play the fool in the future.

He told hundreds, undaunted by a slight drizzle of rain during the early part of the meeting, that he proposes to re-examine the role of the school boards and committees and will submit both the review of disciplinary processes and the role of the boards and committees for consideration by the PTA and for general community interest.

BCPOU Criticism

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 3 Sep 83 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Excerpts]

PRESIDENT Charles Bethel of the Bahamas Communications and Public Officers Union last night called on the leaders of the Hotel Union to reassess their position on the plight of workers affected by the closure of the Xanadu hotel in Freeport and the Playboy Casino in New Providence.

Mr Bethel also urged members of the hotel union to put pressure on President Thomas Bastian and let him know that it is time for them to take home more money.

He noted that Wednesday night, Playboy casino, which opened its doors in 1978, closed leaving 150 employees out of work and that two weeks before that the Xanadu hotel in Freeport, Grand Bahama, closed, also leaving workers unemployed.

"We are talking about the thousands that are unemployed. All we are doing is increasing

that," he said.

He pointed out that government is saying that there are more tourists in this country than ever before and that statistics reveal that the Bahamas now has 400,000 more tourists than we had a year ago this month.

"I believe them. They ain't lie. That's true," Mr Bethel said. "But what's happening. The hotels them are not prepared to hire any more staff but these union people who are responsible for those workers should reassess their position."

He said workers in the country must realize that if Government carries out and succeeds in dismissing Mr Archer, then unions in this country would be a forgotten thing.

"Remember in Communist Poland, even the workers are rebelling against Communism," he said. "So why can't you, if you are free, like the Prime

Minister asking you to repeat after him at the rally that 'I am free'. If you are free, why can't you join the union of your choice?"

Setting the record clear on a particular matter, Mr Bethel, the TUC vice president, said that wherever he goes, he hears that a new label has been put on union leaders, "a new name that we are a bunch of Communists."

He said he received an anonymous letter informing him that Mr Archer and the rest are Communists and that obviously the person who wrote the letter had PLP sentiments.

"But I want to tell that individual something," Mr Bethel said. "Did you know that Senator Maynard, the former repressive chairman of the PLP, has been to socialist Guyana for training. Remember that?"

He also noted that Government sends athletes to Cuba to attend the Pan Am Games.

Noting that Mr Archer is

being called a Communist for inviting former democratic socialist Prime Minister of Jamaica, Michael Manley, here in June, Mr Bethel said that the government on the other hand brought Mr P J Patterson, a former Deputy Prime Minister under Mr Manley, to lecture at the College of the Bahamas.

"Not only that, we had another prominent Minister in the Manley government who was the Chief Justice in this country," Mr Bethel said. "You see, you forget too much and listen to what the PLP says."

"So those of you who are saying that Leonard and the rest of us are Communists, remember what your government did. They brought in these same socialist people in this country, but now they are saying that we are Communists," he said.

He said that now, what is really happening is that the position of the government has been turning in a somewhat different direction and unions must be careful and understand what is occurring.

Call for Inquiry

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 7 Sep 83 pp 1, 10

[Article by Marcia Bethell]

[Text]

CALLING for a Commission of Inquiry to investigate the Ministry of Education, BUT President Leonard Archer claimed the Ministry had not appointed school committees and governing bodies for primary and secondary schools as required by the Education Act.

Mr Archer said it was a pity that parents did not take up the Prime Minister's call to take their children to school. However, he said that if the Prime Minister was serious he would have declared a half day holiday for all government employees so that they could take their children to school.

Speaking on government's law, order and discipline rallies, Mr Archer pointed out the indiscipline of the Ministry of Education in not having school repairs started until it was

almost time for schools to reopen.

Mr Archer said the electricity in three schools in Grand Bahama had not been turned on until Sunday, only two days ago because, he claimed, the bills had not been paid. He also claimed that a primary school in Freeport, under construction for the past 18 months, which was scheduled to open on Monday, has not done so because there is not a piece of furniture in the school.

Mr Archer pointed out section 15.1 in the Education Act which states that for every primary school maintained by the Minister of Education, there shall be a school committee. Section 16.1 states that for every secondary school maintained by the Minister there shall be a governing body appointed.

"If the government is concerned about law and order in this country and if the Attorney General says this is a law-abiding country, how come their own laws have not been implemented yet," Mr Archer asked.

"The reason why the Minister does not implement this act is because it means that when they do, the control of the school goes to the parents of the children who attend that school," Archer claimed.

He explained that the governing body is supposed to be composed of three parents elected by parents and two persons from the community, appointed by the Minister. This body is supposed to provide the Minister with estimates to repair the schools, budget for school supplies and all of the other things that are now done by the Ministry.

"This is the law," Mr Archer said as he recommended the appointment of a commission to inquire why the Education Act was not being implemented. In his opinion "if the Ministry of Education were a private business, every senior officer there would have been fired long ago."

He said it is time that the Bahamian people demanded that the laws, as enacted by Parliament, be implemented for Bahamians, so that they can have the benefits of those laws.

PUBLIC SERVICES UNION ASSAILS GOVERNMENT FOR 'DECEPTION'

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 7 Sep 83 p 10

[Text]

THE "deceptive public remarks" by PLP leaders at recent law and order rallies is a diversion to legitimize the continued existence of the Government in the face of serious problems, including youth unemployment, crime and drugs, the Bahamas Public Services Union charged Tuesday.

The Bahamas Public Services Union said it viewed with the "utmost gravity and disdain" the recent behaviour and statements by Government leaders.

"The deceptive public remarks while intimating a theme of 'law and order' can only be translated as dictatorial threats of disciplinary action against Government workers, who dare to believe that they enjoy freedom of association, be it union, political or religious," the union said.

In the union's opinion the remarks made on Wednesday, August 24, by the Deputy Prime Minister undermined the very foundation of the constitution, said the union release signed by Secretary-General Eric Darville.

"From his statements and the continuous efusion from the apex of the Government we must conclude that the workers are no longer inheritors or successors to these family of islands, and do not enjoy the fundamental rights and freedoms," it added.

The union claimed the labour of the workers has been exploited and their lives frustrated.

The union noted that the

ruling Progressive Liberal Party claims its rallies are being held to educate the masses on law and order and threatens to whip the workers back into line "into the colonial era of slaves or bondsmen."

"History should remind our Government that the colonial Government threatened workers in 1942 and 1958," the union said. "The results became milestones for the people of the Bahamas and gravestones for the colonialists."

"Our Government should act on facts and not on the unreliable and irresponsible sip-sip that emotes from party hicks, be they Cabinet Ministers or teen-age Liberals," the union said.

According to the statement, the BPSU at no time held a meeting or had discussions that would indicate a desire to violate law and order. The union wondered if it was Government's wish to "goad the workers into some form of industrial action or violation of law and order."

Would it be, the union asked, that "Government needs a diversion to legitimize its continued existence in the face of serious youth unemployment, high crime, with drugs and alcoholism at a high rate and the recent astronomical salary increases, approved by them while protestors for the fundamental rights of civil servants are held incommunicado only to experience the true meaning of: 'I am free, I am free, no one,

no one, can take that away from me".

The statement said the union recognizes the principle that workers have the right to withhold or offer their labour to an employer on terms and conditions agreeable to them and the right of employers to act accordingly.

But the union said it will not cower under the intimidation or veiled threats and will zealously guard every basic human right of members at any cost.

"As a responsible trade union, we are aware of the precarious nature of our economic structures and conditions, and petty-minded politicians should guard their colossal salaries with this in mind," said the union.

"Therefore, in the interest of law and order, the preservation of industry, loyalty, Christian values and unity, we invite our Government to stop these malignant rallies and engage in open dialogue with us and the Trade Union Congress, recognizing the fact that our country's reputation for the democratic process is at stake," the union statement added.

CSO: 3298/041

NBC DRUG CHARGES LEAD TO INQUIRY, EXCHANGE OF ACCUSATIONS

Royal Commission Appointment

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 8 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] **FORMER CHIEF Justice Sir James Smith, Kt, CBE, has consented to serve as president of a Royal Commission to inquire into allegations by NBC News of a link between Bahamian government officials and drug smugglers.**

Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling has moved for the appointment of a "blue ribbon" commission. Sir James, a former Chief Justice of the Bahamas and now a member of the Bahamas Court of Appeals, has agreed to head it.

The 70 year-old Sir James became a Bahamas Supreme Court Judge in 1965, was made Senior Justice in 1975 and appointed Chief Justice in 1978. He served until retirement at the age 67 in

1980.

Prime Minister Pindling announced he would advise the Governor-General to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the NBC television broadcasts of September 5; all matters relating to drug trafficking in the Bahamas and to determine whether Ministers of his Government, members of Parliament and other politicians "are or were involved in drug trafficking activities now or at any time."

A Royal Commission was last appointed in 1967 to inquire into casino gambling and activities of members of the then government of the Bahamas.

FNM Objections

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 8 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

THE OPPOSITION Free National Movement today welcomed the appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate narcotics trafficking in the Bahamas, but objected to the selection of former Bahamas Chief Justice Sir James Smith to head the investigation.

The FNM thought it grossly unfair to "require this particular service" of Sir James and asked Prime Minister Pindling to reconsider the appointment.

The Prime Minister appointed the Royal Commission after allegations by NBC Nightly News that an American fugitive heads a drug operation at Norman's Cay, "protected

by Bahamian officials and tolerated by American diplomats."

Said the FNM in a prepared statement:

"We hasten to say we have the greatest respect for Sir James and in no way do we intend to impugn his integrity. However, we have to point out that Sir James has been closely connected with the Bahamas for many years, and all of these years have been spent in the employment of the Bahamas Government. He is now a resident of the Bahamas with the hope of permanently retiring here. We think it is grossly unfair to Sir James himself to require this particular service of him and we ask Prime Minister

Pindling to reconsider his appointment.

"In any event, we respectfully call on Sir James, in these special circumstances, graciously to decline this appointment. It is imperative that this Commission charged with the investigation of the highest elected officials in our land, be, and also appear to be, comprised of persons who are completely independent of and unconnected with the Bahamas.

"It must be remembered that the allegations giving rise to the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry include no less a person than the Prime Minister himself and to avoid the appearance of an accused person selecting his own judge and jury, we strongly urge, although not legally required, that this is a proper instance in which the justice of the case requires that the members of the Commission should be appointed only after the fullest consultation with the Leader of the Opposition.

"It is common knowledge that the islands of the Bahamas have been and are being used as a drug transshipment centre by criminal elements smuggling drugs from points south into the United States.

Whether a particular island

such as Norman's Cay is being used for this purpose at this moment does not, in our opinion, strike at the heart of the matter. We have heard abundant rumours that it had been used in the past and for many months before a Bahamas Police Force contingent was permanently stationed there.

"What is important to the Bahamian public and to the reputation of the country in the outside world is whether there is any substance to the allegations that high ranking Bahamian officials have been paid to provide protection for the drug-runners. For the sake of the individuals who have been named and for the sake of the country as a whole, these allegations must be vigorously investigated.

"We therefore call on all the relevant authorities in the United States to allow any of their agents who might be able to assist in this effort to come to the Bahamas and to testify freely before the Commission. We expect, of course, that Bahamian law officers, past and present, will also be allowed and encouraged to make whatever contributions they can to the work of the Commission."

Commission's Deputy Chief

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 9 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

BAHAMIAN-BORN Anglican Bishop of Barbados, Rev Drexel W Gomez, is the second person named as a member of the "blue-ribbon" Royal Commission called for by Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling to investigate allegations of Government links with drug smugglers.

The allegations came in broadcasts by NBC News on Monday.

In January Bishop Gomez, as chairman of the Barbados Christian Council, took action to examine the issue of gambling in Barbados and work for its eradication.

In a charge to the 1980 Synod at St Michael's Cathedral in Barbados, the Bishop identified conditions that were putting the Christian faith to the test.

Among items mentioned were:

The increasing attractiveness of gambling as a means of acquiring quick money; ever-growing attraction of alcohol and drugs as expressions of authentic lifestyles and increasing pressure to make political affiliation absolute in every sphere of life and its attendant abuse of power.

Bishop Gomez was educated at Government High School, Nassau, Codrington College, Barbados, and Durham University, England. After serving as a parish priest in many islands of the Bahamas he served as Diocesan Financial Secretary in the administration of former Bishop Markham.

He was appointed Bishop of Barbados in June, 1972.

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 9 Sep 83 pp 1, 14

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER Sir Lynden Pindling last night accused the United States National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC), The Tribune and the official opposition Free National Movement of acting together concerning the allegations of corruption levelled at the Government in an NBC broadcast Monday night.

"Now I have no doubt in my mind that NBC, the FNM and The Tribune are in this," The Prime Minister declared at an open-air rally at the Donald Davis Junior High School. "And they are in it together. I have no doubt in my mind about that."

Addressing hundreds of supporters, Sir Lynden also declared that "no FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation)" and "no IRS (Internal Revenue Service)" are going to come to the Bahamas and tell the Bahamian police and the Central Bank what to do. "If they want information on a bank, if they want information on the police, go through the front door," the Prime Minister said. "There is no back door."

"And if they put me on their hit list for that, I can't help that. You see I make my pledge to you the Bahamian people. You elected me. Nobody anywhere else elected me," he added.

"There is no FBI who is going to come in here and tell the Bahamian police what to do," he said. "There is no IRS who is going to come in here and tell the Central Bank of the Bahamas what to do."

The Prime Minister was responding to charges aired on NBC that Norman's Cay in the Exumas, has been a major base for the smuggling of marijuana and cocaine to the United States, and that the cay has a million-dollar paved runway plus refrigerated hangars for storage of tons of cocaine.

The report also said that fugitive financier Robert Vesco heads the drug operation and is

protected by the Bahamian officials, whom NBC claim a ~~Justice Department intelligence~~ report has alleged are being paid \$800,000 a month by Vesco associates.

According to NBC, the FBI was planning to attempt to arrest Youth Minister Kendal Nottage. According to NBC the plan was to take him on a yacht in international waters and offer him a bribe with hidden cameras on him, but the plan was blocked by the US Ambassador to the Bahamas, Dr Lev Dobriansky. In an NBC interview Dr Dobriansky said: "I stopped it ...".

In accusing the FNM, The Tribune and NBC of acting together in the report, the Prime Minister said that at the August 29th rally by the Government at Christie Park, attended by the Guardian, The Tribune, The Herald and NBC, he spoke from a prepared text.

"At the end of the meeting, the Guardian requested a copy of my address, ZNS requested a copy of my address, The Herald requested a copy of my address, The Tribune reporter was asked: 'Aren't you going to cover the story' and he said: 'I am going to get it off the NBC tape'," the Prime Minister told the crowd.

"That's OK," he said. "That didn't mean anything at that time. But the next date to which I would like to draw your attention is the following Monday. The date now is September 5th. Something big was planned to happen on September 5th. Everybody was talking about this big day, September 5th."

"I do not believe it was no accident that it was September 5th," he said. "But things started going wrong from August 10th, but the only thing was NBC didn't know that. Things went further wrong on August 17 and the only thing was that NBC didn't know that."

He said that on Monday, September 5th, The Tribune hit

the streets of Nassau and "The Tribune could tell you what time the NBC broadcast was coming on that night. It could tell you the exact time it was coming on the next morning."

"Now I can understand why The Tribune reporter did not want a copy of my speech," he said. "They were working hand in hand together. It's as clear as day."

The Prime Minister said that by two o'clock Tuesday, the FNM had a news release, not in Nassau, but in Miami on WINZ.

"We know from the last time that there was supposed to be a general strike, I heard it on WINZ that 14,000 people would stop work in Nassau and airports closed and docks closed and everything closed," he said.

"I heard that on WINZ and I looked down there and I see everybody working," the Prime Minister said. "And so I know the connection there as well."

The Prime Minister said that the NBC story was broadcast on Monday night, September 5th, and the Miami Herald carried the story the following day, Tuesday, September 6th.

He said that The Tribune did not print the facts because it knew them to be libelous and if it had printed it in the Bahamas, what the laws of the Bahamas say.

"They may be crazy, but they ain't fool," declared the Prime Minister. "Now if The Tribune was so sure that it was true, why didn't they print it, because truth is an absolute and complete defence to libel, an absolute and complete defence."

"Now NBC is a large network, with radio and television, and very powerful. So I have no doubt that this was deliberate. I have no doubt that what The Tribune was about was deliberate. I have no doubt that what the FNM is about is deliberate," the Prime Minister said.

"No accident," he added, "everybody knows exactly what's going on with their eyes wide open. I want all three of them to know that my eyes open too, even if they think one of them eyes cross."

He said that if Mr Nottage was engaged in illegal activities in the Bahamas, or in the United States, or in the Bahamas to get something illegal to the United States, two things would happen in accordance with the law.

In accordance with the laws of the Bahamas, Mr Nottage would be arrested in the Bahamas.

"If they didn't want to do that, as they said they have the evidence in the United States, anytime Kendal Nottage went to the United States they could have arrested him in the United States," the Prime Minister said.

"I say, my brothers and sisters, they have one of two choices and either one of two choices would have been fully in accordance with the law," the Prime Minister said. "If they have evidence that he has broken the law of the Bahamas or of the United States, he could and would have been arrested here and he could and would have been arrested in the United States."

"Isn't it funny that all of the stuff they say they have, they never reported it to one policeman in the Bahamas," he said. "And is it not funny that all the time Kendal Nottage was going to the States they never arrested him once."

"So now tell me, how are you going to arrest a man in the ocean? How are you going to arrest a man in international waters? For what?" the Prime Minister queried, adding that it would have been a conspiracy.

"If he was trafficking in drugs on the high seas, drugs destined for the United States, it must have been done by a number of other people, and he could be arrested in the United States for conspiracy to smuggle drugs into the United States," the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister said that lawyers do not understand what sovereignty is all about or are just plain crazy.

"Well, I can tell you this, they will be exposed and Bahamians will come to see them as they are," he said.

"And I still tell you we are

going all the way on this. I want to tell you that."

"Is it not amazing after ten years after we have achieved nationhood, the ten years after we have achieved independence, there seems to be Bahamians, they all have got Bahamian passports, they would wish to see the Bahamas take orders from some place else," the

Prime Minister said.

"That is not what I fought for independence for," he said. "I tell you that. I don't mind how big the country is; I don't mind how rich the country is; I don't mind how white the country is; I told you I pledge my life to protect you and this country with all that I have got."

[Editor's Note: In its issue of 10 September, page 5, THE TRIBUNE carries a lengthy and detailed reply to the prime minister's charges by editor and publisher Eileen Dupuch Carron denying any contacts with NBC as alleged by Mr Pindling.]

Background on Norman's Cay

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 9 Sep 83 pp 1, 4

[Text]

NORMAN'S CAY, over 900 acres of prime real estate with 10 miles of wide sandy beaches in the northern Exumas, was described as "an eye-popping situation for the American investor" when it went on the market in 1968.

Americans and Canadians fell for the bait, bought lots and built lovely vacation homes. Ten years later their idyllic island life was over. Norman's Cay had been invaded by tough-looking, Spanish-speaking Colombians, whose suspicious ways, anti-social behaviour, and vicious dogs, eventually drove them out.

Between 1979 and 1980 there were about 50 Colombians on the island. And, it was said, by 1980 at the height of the "business", at least 11,000 kilos of cocaine, translated into hundreds of millions of dollars, was being shipped through the island.

If a resident dared go to the police about the strange happenings - small planes coming and going, cigarette boats darting in and out at all hours, unleashed Doberman Pinschers roaming the island at night - his home was torn to pieces. In one home, The Tribune was told, the "wall paper was ripped from the walls, the plumbing fixtures were torn out ... it really looked as though it had

been hit by a bomb."

The Colombians kept the pressure up. One by one the residents left. The last American to capitulate to the forced take-over had to be evacuated with official government assistance. That was in the Spring of last year. All the private homes had been "smashed up...destroyed" by the interlopers.

One unsuspecting yachtsman, accustomed in the past to refuelling at the island, stopped by uninvited. He told of seeing about 30 Doberman dogs penned up. Residents told stories of the dogs being turned loose at night near the large hangars. "They roamed all over the island. No one could come out of their homes at night".

The hangars attracted much attention. In November, 1980, another yachtsman cruising the waters marvelled at the large white building on the airstrip and came back to Nassau wondering what it was used for.

"I thought it was a big building for so small an island, so big that it impressed me. If I had an army of planes I wouldn't need a building that big to keep them," he remarked. He photographed the island from his yacht. The photographs, taken in colour, showed Norman's Cay dotted with tiny planes - some in clear view, others hidden by bush.

NBC (Channels 5 and 7), which Monday levelled "smuggling" accusations about drug trafficking in the Bahamas, said that here on Norman's Cay "in the middle of nowhere, are smugglers' dreams, refrigerated hangars to store tons and tons of cocaine and a million-dollar paved run-way, long enough to handle jet planes."

Although the hangars were neither airconditioned nor refrigerated, there is speculation that large freezers might have been located inside. But it is not known if anyone ever got close enough to find out. There is also some doubt as to whether the runway could handle any jet larger than an executive. In 1969 the four-mile-long island (only 1 1/4 miles wide) had a 3,000 airstrip accommodating up to DC-3's, with an airport building for supplies.

But by 1979 the runway was being improved and lengthened.

In the sixties there were about 300 plots of land at Norman's Cay owned by Americans and Canadians. Over a dozen private homes had been built on the island.

Early in 1979 strange reports started to reach The Tribune that the once convenient stopping off point for yachtsmen and weekend pilots had been closed by the mysterious new owner. There were reports of planes landing without immigration permission; of yachtsmen, not only being driven off, but followed by boats and buzzed by a helicopter to make certain they left the area; at least one case of a pilot in distress not being permitted to make an emergency landing. And so in April, 1979, The Tribune started to ask questions.

It was discovered that a large area of the southern end of the island on which the marina, clubhouse and airstrip were located, and a plot of land at the opposite end of the island had been purchased by International Dutch Resources Ltd., headed by Colombian-born Joseph Lehder.

Lehder's appearance at the Bahamas cay coincided with the change of fortunes in Colombia - by now Colombians not only controlled drug production, but

they were in firm control of its distribution. The Bahamas - in particular Norman's Cay - suddenly acquired a special interest for them and quickly became a part of the Colombian connection. Today NBC TV claims that 70 percent of the cocaine and marijuana coming into the United States is routed through the Bahamas.

Having bought the airstrip, Lehder had control of the island. However, included in the leases of many of the residents was the right to use the airstrip. Those with such leases were allowed limited access to the runway; others were kept off.

It was soon learned that Lehder was an ex-convict who had been deported from the United States in 1976. He was also a fugitive from a drug smuggling conspiracy indictment in the United States.

As public complaints mounted, the Royal Bahamas Police Force raided Norman's Cay in September, 1979. Several arrests were made. In retaliation Lehder fired over 100 Bahamians, announced that his \$8 million construction project was off as was any future investment in the island. Two weeks later he put his 165 acres at Norman's Cay up for sale for \$2.93 million. It soon became clear that Lehder had no intention of selling.

Many saw this exercise as a bluff to lie low while he regrouped his forces. Mr Norman Solomon, St John's MP, said as much in the House of Assembly on November 29, 1979.

Drug trafficking at the island, said Mr Solomon, "continues today as unmolested as it did prior to the police raid in September". And, he disclosed, Lehder and his group continue to "deal in astronomical amounts". Mr Solomon asked for a House committee to investigate the allegations. Government refused.

But as a result of Opposition pressure Lehder and two others were put on Government's stop list.

On November 19, 1980, again in the House of Assembly, Mr Solomon read from the transcript of a magistrate's

court case in which the general manager of Norman's Cay testified that Prime Minister Pindling had visited the cay many times since 1972 and that many dignitaries had been there too. Mr Solomon wanted to know if Sir Lynden and the other "dignitaries" had gone there as guests of fugitive Lehder.

Said Mr Solomon: "I want to know if there is any connection between the Prime Minister, the dignitaries and the operation of Mr Lehder at Norman's Cay."

He told House members that it was possible that somebody was in a position to protect Lehder and was extending him that protection. He also wanted to know why Government was "so slow to move against Norman's Cay".

Mr Solomon said that someone, who was very well known to House members, had told him that Joe Lehder had boasted that he was a full member of "the club" and his dues were "very costly".

Mr Solomon also told the House that despite Lehder being put on the restricted list, he was "allowed back on the cay after a police raid on September 14, 1979, with the knowledge and cooperation of the Bahamas government. Minister of Home Affairs Clement Maynard agreed that Norman's Cay was one of several cays in the Bahamas suspected of drug smuggling. He confirmed that Lehder had been put on the restricted list in December, 1979 and on the stop list in March, 1980 - the year, according to Tribune sources, that cocaine trafficking through Norman's Cay was at its height.

At the end of November, 1980, the Defence Force mounted a "search operation" at Norman's Cay. A few days later Government Information Services issued a terse bulletin: "A thorough search was made of Norman's Cay, Exuma, Saturday morning, but nothing that would result in charges was found."

But on December 16, 1980, Mr Solomon was still complaining in the House that the Norman's Cay drug operation was "flourishing today as much as ever and perhaps more than ever."

Despite the fact that Lehder is on Government's stop list, said Mr Solomon, "he remains today more or less a permanent resident at Norman's Cay."

He said he had been told of a New Providence connection that "might very well be the connection which is being used to pass on the leaked information concerning impending police raids."

Mr Solomon said an alleged eye witness had told him that just before a police raid took place, a number of particular persons would leave Norman's Cay in a very high-powered boat, disappear, and then reappear when everything at the cay had returned to normal and the police had left.

Meanwhile there were no visa restrictions on Colombians coming into the Bahamas. Like other persons in this hemisphere they came in legally as tourists. However, in the US it was discovered that many of them continued on to the mainland, illegally. Before the Bahamas government consented in late 1981 to require visas for all Colombians entering the Bahamas, about 800 of them were continuing on from here to the United States on a monthly basis. Among the illegal aliens were many criminals. About this time (1980-81) Miami was having its own problems with the Mariel refugees from Cuba. Crime had taken off at an unprecedented rate; murders in particular were out of control. One drug enforcement officer in Miami commented that it was soon found that "an uncomfortable number of Colombians were involved".

By late 1981 an effort was made to do something about Norman's Cay. A squad of 10 policemen were sent to the island. However, reports soon started to filter back to Nassau that attempts, in some cases

successful, were being made to corrupt the officers.

By 1982 the information reaching Nassau was that nothing had improved at Norman's Cay - persons were still being chased off or being followed by armed Colombians; the Doberman dogs were still roaming and the last American had to be evacuated.

On October 8, 1981 a Steve Francis, who described himself as a "22 year-old journalist", took a half page advertisement in the Nassau Guardian to put 49 questions to The Tribune's Contributing Editor, who knew nothing about Norman's Cay, except what he himself was reading in The Tribune. The questions were anti-American, particularly against the American Drug Enforcement Agency. Joe Lehder was presented as a much-maligned philanthropist. A man whose only crime, according to Francis, was "the tremendous concern, faith and love that he possesses for the Norman's Cay community." According to Francis Lehder has a Bahamian daughter.

The American Embassy was questioned about Lehder's status in the United States and on the same day of the Francis advertisement revealed that on January 12, 1981, Carlos Enrique Lehder Rivas - known as Joe Lehder "and by other names" - was indicted in US District Court in Jacksonville, Fla, for conspiracy to possess cocaine with intent to distribute and for "continued criminal enterprise."

"On September 24, 1981," said the Embassy release, "the United States requested his arrest for extradition under the terms of the extradition treaty in force with the Commonwealth of the Bahamas in order that he stand trial under the indictment."

And then on July 9, 1982 a

magazine published in Bogota, Colombia on June 3, was delivered to The Tribune. In it was an article in Spanish by Joe Lehder. Attached to the magazine was a very poor English translation of the Lehder article. In his article Lehder stormed angrily against the United States, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and the lot of Colombian "extraditables", himself being one. He complained about the US government's "massive anti-narcotics, anti-Latin" campaign. He did not like the Bahamas visa restrictions on Colombians, which he blamed on the Reagan administration.

The following day - July 10, 1982 - was the independence holiday in the Bahamas. Big celebrations were planned for Clifford Park. As Governor-General Sir Gerald Cash, Prime Minister Lynden Pindling and members of Parliament assembled at Clifford Park to celebrate the Bahamas' ninth anniversary, a low-flying aircraft dropped leaflets telling the DEA to get out of the Bahamas. Money, ranging in denominations from \$1 to \$100, was attached to many of the leaflets. The plane then flew over Bimini where more anti-DEA leaflets and money were dropped.

The plane and the leaflets were traced to Norman's Cay.

According to reports, aircraft traffic continued to be very active towards the end of last year. A yachtsman visiting Norman's Cay in January of this year said there was still evidence that the island had been used for drug trafficking.

However, by the beginning of this year even the Colombians had deserted Norman's Cay. Several persons feel that the brazen leaflet drop on July 10, 1982 proved to be the last straw.

Call for Pindling's Resignation

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 10 Sep 83 pp 1, 11

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

LOUD CHEERS greeted Official Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs' call last night for Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling to resign over the NBC drug scandal as he exhorted his Free National Movement followers to prepare for a possible early general election.

About three minutes of tumultuous cheering followed this call.

Mr Isaacs told over 500 supporters at a rally at the old St John's High School grounds that it seemed odd that Prime Minister Pindling, who with Youth Minister Kendal Nottage, has been accused by NBC of alleged corruption, has appointed his own court.

"I would have thought that the Prime Minister would have followed the procedure that is laid down for public officers that when an officer is accused of something he is interdicted," said Mr Isaacs. "In other words, he has to take a little vacation until the matter is investigated."

The opposition leader said that is exactly his opinion as to what should have happened.

The rally was the first held by the FNM since NBC alleged in a television broadcast Monday that Norman's Cay in the Exumas is a major base headed by fugitive American financier Robert Vesco in the trafficking of cocaine and marijuana into the United States.

NBC claimed that a Justice Department intelligence report alleged that Vesco associates paid officials of the Government, including the Prime Minister, a sum totalling \$100 000 a month for protection.

The NBC report also stated that US Ambassador to the Bahamas Dr Lev Dobriansky stopped the FBI investigation of the matter from reaching Youth Minister, whom the FBI had wanted to entrap in international waters in an Abscam-type operation.

The Ambassador confirmed that he stopped the FBI plan because the Bahamas and the United States were in the midst of delicate negotiations on a naval base in the Bahamas and that the FBI plan would have caused embarrassment to the Bahamas Government and destabilise the country.

"You know the Prime Minister, I understand, has the audacity to say that if he and Mr Nottage were removed, there would be no Government," Mr Isaacs said. "Now you know that if that wasn't so asinine, it would be laughable."

"I have had reason to say on many an occasion that if this government allows the country to just run itself and didn't interfere, it would be a better run country," he said.

"And I say, and I say it again, and I shall say it again and again until either they are removed or until they pull up their socks," he added.

Mr Isaacs said that the Prime Minister, having appointed his own court, should have stepped down.

"And you know, I believe every well thinking Bahamian, and certainly every Bahamian within the sound of my voice would join me now in calling upon the Prime Minister to resign," Mr Isaacs said.

"I believe that these are serious times and I would like, having called on the Prime Minister to resign, I would like to end on a positive note," Mr Isaacs said.

He said that ever since the FNM has been holding its "Report to the People" rallies, he has made it a point to call on FNM members to get into their constituencies to see that their constituency associations are organized and "to see that you are working in the constituencies."

"The conditions in our country are such that we do not know when an election might be called and we must not be caught with our lamps empty."

he said.

Mr Isaacs said: "We must be ready and I exhort every Free National Movement member and every member sympathetic to the Free National Movement to get into your constituencies and talk to your brothers and sisters and to see that they know the truth, that they have seen the light and that they are committed FNMs."

"So that when an election is called, first of all they are registered, and that they will go to the polls and that they will vote FNM," he said.

Mr Isaacs also denied Thursday night's accusation by Prime Minister Pindling that the FNM, The Tribune and NBC worked together on the allegations which were broadcast by NBC Monday night and Tuesday morning.

"We were shocked and we were appalled when we heard the news item (of the allegations Monday night) over the NBC national network," Mr Isaacs said.

He added: "We of the Free National Movement were hearing that news for the first time and I would like to impress it upon you and upon every Bahamian and every person in the sound of my voice, that we in the Free National Movement had nothing to do with that news release."

"You see, they would like to try to make scapegoats out of the FNM and The Tribune and the Dupuch family," said Mr Isaacs, "that if they feel they can associate us with something, then it would take away from the credibility of the accusations because they will say the FNM is the official opposition therefore its their job."

"They would say that the official opposition has the job to oppose and they are likely to say anything that would discredit the PLP," Mr Isaacs said. "So I want to emphasize to you tonight that that bit of news did not come from the Free National Movement and I have

every bit of information that it did not come from The Tribune or the Dupuch family."

He said that he has heard over the past several nights that there are some people who would like to turn a blind eye to the NBC broadcast. He has also heard people say that no attention should be paid to it whatsoever.

"Now that has to be absolute nonsense," Mr Isaacs declared. "It has to be absolutely irresponsible because if serious allegations of that nature are made against anybody then there should be an investigation."

"There must be an investigation and those persons who feel that the whole information should be brushed under the carpet and nothing said about it and nothing done about it, really do not have the interest of you, the Bahamian people, at heart," Mr Isaacs said.

He said that not only are FNMs interested in knowing the truth, but also every caring citizen, be it FNM or PLP, and they would want to know that they have a clean and honest government.

Another trick Mr Isaacs accused the PLP of being an expert at is in saying that everything that goes wrong in the Bahamas must be the fault of the FNM, and told the crowd that they should feel flattered because the FNM is not the government.

"If we have the power to make those things happen, to cause these things to happen, to do these things, then we must be a powerful organization," he said. "And, of course, you and I know that we are a powerful organization."

"But we are an honest and a caring organization, and we would not be doing anything to the detriment of our beloved Bahamian people," he said.

"But I want you to remember that we of the Free National Movement did not initiate this investigation but we of the Free National Movement have in-

sisted that this investigation should be carried on," he said.

"We were blamed for drawing the attention of the Bahamian public to this matter," he said. "But do you know, as the official opposition, if we had not done that, we would have been criticized even by the PLP."

"I want the Bahamian people to know and to realize that it is our duty to do this and I believe that we did our duty well," he said, accusing the PLP of attempting to take the sting out of the allegations made by NBC by referring to events of 1972 which have been investigated over and over by police.

"So do not be fooled and do not be misled by these allegations that something happened in 1972 that needs investigation," Mr Isaacs said. "We are concerned by certain allegations that were made by NBC about certain high-ranking members of the PLP."

Commenting on the appointment of the Royal Commission, Mr Isaacs quoted from the FNM's press statement issued Tuesday calling on the Prime Minister to appoint the commission, he said that "all he (the Prime Minister) has done was to try to shift the burden, shift the blame, on to the FNM."

"Let me repeat what we were saying was that these allegations needed and cried out for an inquiry and because we said that we were accused of spreading the allegations ourselves," Mr Isaacs said. "Nothing could be further from the truth."

"I am not going to criticize any member who has been appointed so far, but what I would say is this, this commission primarily will be appointed to investigate the Rt Hon Prime Minister's conduct, the conduct of Mr Kendal Nottage, and it does seem odd, doesn't it, that the accused is appointing his court," Mr Isaacs said.

Criticism From Union Leaders

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 12 Sep 83 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

FREEPORT - If no unusual activity was happening at Norman's Cay, why was it necessary to have so many policemen stationed permanently at the island when there is a serious manpower shortage in the Police Force?

This was the question raised by Teachers Union president Leonard Archer Thursday night as he addressed about 200 cheering supporters at a Trade Union Congress rally in Freeport.

Mr Archer was dealing with allegations made in an NBC news story claiming that American fugitive Robert Vesco had operated a cocaine business at Norman's Cay, "protected by Bahamian officials."

Mr Archer said the fact that police are stationed at the Exuma cay "says that the Government believes that something was going on and, therefore, to try and pretend that nothing was going on is ridiculous."

"Even if none of it is true, the fact that so many people are prepared to believe the allegations made against the Government is a serious situation."

Mr Archer pointed out that NBC claimed in its news report that Vesco is now operating out of Cuba. NBC alleged that Vesco is running guns into El Salvador for Castro and, in exchange, is allegedly allowed to continue his cocaine operation in Cuba.

"If those allegations are true then there's no reason to be surprised if nothing is going on at Norman's Cay at the moment," Mr Archer said.

Communications and Public Officers Union president Charles Bethel told the crowd there was "a lot of sip-sip going on in Nassau" about certain people.

The audience roared with laughter and somebody shouted, "Things go better with coke!"

Mr Bethel said that remarks made by Stunce Williams, director of Bahamas Youth For

Christ, in defence of Prime Minister Pindling were "ridiculous."

"He wouldn't speak out against justice and fair play in this country for Leonard Archer, but now he's saying that because someone is being accused of something it's unfair."

He pointed out that Mr Archer, who was prematurely "retired" from the teaching service by Government "in the public interest", wasn't even granted a hearing before his dismissal, although he wrote to the authorities to ask for a chance to be heard.

Said Mr Williams: "I honestly believe that if Lynden Pindling was a white man, this wouldn't have happened."

"What happened to the Wall Street Journal in 1966?" Mr Bethel wanted to know. "The Wall Street Journal assisted the P.L.P." He was referring to questions raised in The Wall Street Journal about casino gambling and consultancy fees, which led to the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry and the eventual downfall of the white UBP government.

Mr Bethel said that according to "sip-sip," the Prime Minister said that an attack on him is an attack on the Bahamas.

He said that Sir Lynden earlier denied union fears that the attack on Leonard Archer was an attack on the trade union movement.

"I thought an attack on him (Prime Minister), would be an attack on him, like he said with us," Mr Bethel said.

He also recalled how a handful of people demonstrating in support of Mr Archer were locked up all night while the Prime Minister insisted that the House of Assembly meet all night to have parliamentary salary increases passed. He said Sir Lynden said he does not direct the police.

"Yet, in Wednesday's papers and over radio, the Prime Minister said that he had directed the police to cause an investigation into this (NBC allegations)," Mr Bethel said.

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 13 Sep 83 pp 1, 5

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

OPPOSITION Blue Hills MP Arthur Foulkes charged Friday night that it looks as though the American Government is "protecting" rather than "piling up" on the ruling Progressive Liberal Party Government, which NBC TV has accused of covering up a major drug smuggling operation at Norman's Cay.

Mr Foulkes said that if his party, the official opposition Free National Movement, were the Government of the Bahamas, it would not be trading navy bases for cocaine bases "or basing or free basing cocaine."

The former Minister of Tourism in the PLP Government also warned the American Government to be careful about encouraging spiteful and dictatorial leaders who have their feet on the necks of their people, because they are not friends and are only using the United States.

In his address to hundreds of FNMs at the party's "Report To The People" rally on the grounds of the old St John's College, Mr Foulkes told the crowd that earlier that day he had seen Mr Franklyn Butler, son of the late Governor-General Sir Miles Butler, demonstrating about the United States "piling up on this poor little country (the Bahamas)."

"It don't look like that to me," Mr Foulkes declared. "It looks to me that the United States Government is not piling up on the PLP. It looks like the United States Government is protecting them."

"That's how it looks to me because Mr (Lev) Dobriansky (US Ambassador to the Bahamas) said, yes, there was an investigation by the FBI, and he said, yes, there was a plan to try to trap a certain Minister, and he said, yes, I stopped it, and in the Bahamas he is America. Now that may not be the text of America, but he is America in the Bahamas," Mr Foulkes said.

Commenting on Dr Dobriansky's comment in an interview with NBC concerning the alleged FBI investigation, Mr Foulkes noted that the Ambassador went on to speak about the embarrassment and destabilisation the proposed investigation might have caused to the Bahamas.

"I want to educate him a bit because some of them don't seem to understand that the Bahamas is not a Third World country in terms of its parliamentary institutions and in terms of its judicial system," Mr Foulkes said.

He said the Bahamas has had a parliament for 250 years, which is older than the constitution of the United States.

"Mr Dobriansky should educate himself and he should understand that the Bahamas is not like Uganda or Zimbabwe nor any Third World country like that which are ridden by dictators," he said.

"We have a tradition of ~~parliamentary~~ democracy and we have proven to the world that we can change governments through that parliamentary system because we changed the UBP when it was time for them to go and the country was not embarrassed, the country was not destabilized," Mr Foulkes told the crowd.

"So he, as an Ambassador and a diplomat, should get his rhetoric straight and he should know ... Mr Leader you are going to be very worried at what I'm going to say, but I have to tell Mr Dobriansky these things ... he ought to get his rhetoric right and he ought to know the difference between one country and another not only on the map but he ought to know the difference between one country and another in terms of their culture, in terms of their history, in terms of their parliamentary system and in terms of their judicial system," said Mr Foulkes.

Saying he hoped the US Ambassador was listening to his

address, Mr Foulkes said the FNM expects him to apply to the Bahamas not the standards of Idi Amin of Uganda or the standards of the leaders in Zimbabwe or any other Third World country.

"We expect Mr Dobriansky and the American Government to apply to us the same standards that they hold so sacred," Mr Foulkes said. "Freedom of speech. The right of the people to choose their government and the confidence in the people that they are intelligent enough to change a government when they see fit without talk of destabilisation."

Mr Foulkes said the Bahamas is not a "Banana Republic", a term used to describe some of the nations in Latin America, and the FNM is going to make sure that it never becomes one.

"Unless anybody misunderstands what I say, let me say this," Mr Foulkes said. "You know the policy of our party, you know that we have been unashamedly pro-American. In fact we have been cussed by the PLP for being in favour of foreign investors, so I am speaking to Lev Dobriansky

and America as a friend."

"Sometimes they find it difficult to distinguish between a friend and a foe," Mr Foulkes said. "The facts are that this party is on record in affirming its friendship with America and if we were the government we would not be trading navy bases for cocaine bases, or basing or free-basing cocaine."

Mr Foulkes said the opposition realizes that the prosperity of the Bahamas is tied up with the destiny of the United States and further realizes that the only thing that stops the Communist boots from trampling on Bay Street is American power.

"You know that Castro has already sunk one of our vessels in an unprovoked and deliberate attack, something like the Korean airplane, and we know were it not for the power of America, all of us would be learning Spanish," he said. "And that ain't too bad, but we'd be learning Spanish and Communism at the same time."

"And so we say America, don't let Mr Pindling browbeat you, don't let him fool you. We say our interests are identical, our interests in this region are

identical, peace, prosperity and democracy for all the people in this region," Mr Foulkes said.

He added: "And we say to America be careful about encouraging spiteful and dictatorial leaders who have their feet on the necks of the people because they are not really your friends, they are only using you."

Mr Foulkes also said that American lawyer F Lee Bailey, who resides in Great Harbour Cay and who has volunteered his services to assist the Bahamas Government, is "in for a big surprise."

He also criticized Baptist preacher Rev Simeon Hall and Youth for Christ Director Evangelist Stunce Williams saying he was "astonished" at them and told the crowd that any minister of religion who says that when you destroy Mr Pindling and Mr Nottage, you destroy the Bahamas, "ought to have his head examined"

"We are not at all impressed by Simeon Hall and Stunce Williams who just suddenly realize that all of us are Bahamians," said Mr Foulkes.

More Union Condemnation

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 14 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

THE TRADE Union Congress said today it seemed that Prime Minister Pindling is more concerned with who leaked information to NBC on an alleged cocaine operation at Norman's Cay than finding out if the allegations were true or false.

And the TUC is disappointed that some Ministers of Religion felt the need to pronounce innocence of those accused by NBC of accepting pay-offs before the Commission of Inquiry was even appointed.

"Apparently, they believe the lie that king and country is one and the same. A reading of history will show that kings have been deposed, have been executed and the country survived," the TUC said in a statement issued today.

It pointed out that the Constitution provides for the orderly transfer of power and said that if the Ministers believe in the Constitution, they should have no fear of this country once the Commission's findings are known.

The TUC said it is concerned about the manner in which the Commission is being appointed and thought it should not have been named without consultation with the Leader of the Opposition because "the principle of consultation between the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition, as representatives of the total electorate, is enshrined in our Constitution."

"We find the paranoia about the persons who might have given (NBC reporter Brian) Ross the information very dis-

turbing," the TUC said.

"It seems that many persons, including the Prime Minister, are more concerned about who talked, as opposed to the truth" of falsity "of what the persons said. Surely, if there was no substance to any of the allegations, then the sources of those allegations are unimportant." The TUC said it would hate to think that the "clamour for names is purely for the purpose of carrying out reprisals against those persons who talked to Mr Ross."

The TUC, concerned about the manner in which the Royal Commission is being appointed, suggested that a trained investigator be appointed to it.

It noted that the Gambling Commission of 1966 was headed by a retired detective and contained one other detective inspector.

The TUC is convinced that someone of the stature and expertise of a Sir Ranulph Bacon should be named to the Commission.

"We feel that it is necessary for the Commission to follow all leads so that the Bahamas can rid itself, as far as possible, of the drug menace.

"We are disturbed by the persistent rumours of drug involvement in high places, and

we feel that the Commission's terms of reference should be broad enough to investigate allegations that have persisted for a number of years," the TUC said.

It said the reporting of the NBC matter by the Broadcasting Corporation of the Bahamas shows "either how poorly trained the management of the station is, or how callously unconcerned they are about good journalism.

"Since August 10, the Broadcasting Corporation has carried a barrage of allegations, untruths and criticism of Mr A Leonard Archer and other union leaders of the Bahamas Union of Teachers and TUC.

"At no time has the Corporation allowed anyone from the unions to respond to the allegations, as NBC (allowed the PM to respond to its allegations)," the TUC pointed out.

"If the General Manager (of the Corporation) felt that NBC was right in allowing the Prime Minister to respond (as the TUC said his behaviour clearly indicated), then surely it must be equally right for the union leaders to have equal time to respond to the Government's allegations about them," the TUC said.

BRIEFS

DEFENSE BASE COMMANDER--THE NEW Commanding Officer of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force Base at Coral Harbour is 42-year-old Senior Commander Amos Rolle, a former ASP in the Royal Bahamas Police Force. Senior Commander Rolle assumed his new command on August 26 and replaces Captain Leon Smith who has been posted at the Ministry of Defence Headquarters in the Churchill Building. Senior Commander Rolle was promoted to the rank of Commander on January 1, 1981 and later that year was made a member of the Order of the British Empire (Military Division) by the Queen for "his bravery during the Flamingo incident." HMBS Flamingo was fired on and sunk by Cuban Mig fighters as it apprehended Cuban fishermen suspected of illegally fishing in Bahamian waters. On January 3, Commander Rolle began a Staff Course at the Royal Naval Staff College, Greenwich, England. The course included such subjects as management and tactical operations. [Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 2 Sep 83 p 9]

CSO: 3298/042

DEVELOPMENTS ON LABOR, UNION FRONTS REPORTED

Government White Paper

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 2 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

There is to be conciliation in future industrial disputes in the public sector, according to a Government White Paper on Labour just released.

The Government, in proposing this move, said that it has proven to be most effective in the private sector.

In the present circumstances, either a stalemate occurs or the Government proceeds unilaterally to implement changes.

Under the proposed system, the Governor-General would propose a conciliator for acceptance by both parties to the dispute, while the Ministry of Labour will provide the support services at conciliation

meetings.

One specification, however, is that on introduction of the system, industrial action should not be taken unless conciliation fails.

Government also proposes not to expand the list of essential services because the industrial climate remains stable.

The Government said that it recognises the maturity of employers and workers' organisations in the conduct of their affairs, and that no amount of legislation could substitute for this.

The Industrial Relations White Paper is now being considered by a number of public and private sector interests.

Assessment of BWU Meeting

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 5 Sep 83 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

It is of the first importance that harmonious relations should be promoted and maintained between three vital sections of the community the employer, the worker and the Government.

For this reason it was good to see

that these three sections were represented at the 42nd Annual Delegate Conference of the Barbados Workers' Union. They were present at the opening ceremony of the conference and after joining in the prayers and listening to the

speeches of the BWU officers and guest speakers, they departed, leaving the delegates of the various divisions to get down to the business agenda of the Conference.

If a situation is to be created in which satisfactory wages are paid, productivity is correspondingly increased, industry and agriculture improved and a successful attempt made to solve the balance of payments problem, it is abundantly clear that the public and private sector and the trade union movement must work together to ensure the general welfare and progress of the country.

It was heartening to see, therefore, that the BWU invited the Minister of Labour, Mr. DeLisle Bradshaw to open their Conference and it was evident from the tone and content of his address that the Minister readily accepted the invitation.

Mr. Bradshaw took the opportunity to share with the BWU some of his thoughts and some of the Government's plans in the field of labour and industrial relations. Appropriately enough, the Minister began his address by commending the BWU and its leadership for their long established maturity in the pursuits of the interests of its members.

The task the BWU has undertaken over the years has not been an easy one. For it has invariably endeavoured, in the words of the minister, to minimise conflict in industrial relations and at the same time succeed in attaining its legitimate objectives.

Two instances were mentioned of the Union's commitment to the total welfare and security of its members. The first referred to the successful development of a housing programme over the past few years and the recent launching of a credit union. No one will question the statement of the minister that the government will assist the union to ensure the

success of its latest venture.

It is well known that the government has for some time been considering proposals which have recently been embodied in a White Paper. It is heartening to know that the White Paper has been sent to all unions and their comments invited. This is one clear indication that the Ministry of Labour intends to be guided by the spirit of dialogue and not of confrontation.

This is a welcome pronouncement by the minister since the policy of both the Government and the Unions must be to promote the welfare both of the workers and the population in general.

Since the White Paper has presumably been sent to the private sector, we may assume that the Government is guided by the spirit of tripartism to which it has publicly committed itself on more than one occasion.

At its last annual delegate conference, the BWU called for adequate staffing of the Labour Department. Since then that Department has been increased and the minister expressed his satisfaction that this important section of the Government machinery had been improved.

It is just as well that reference was made to the complaints that have long been made about the delay in the payment of National Insurance benefits. One proposal was suggested that employers, where possible, should pay short term benefits for an initial period and then deduct such payments from contributions due to the National Insurance Office. Such a suggestion, however, can scarcely be adopted universally. What is obviously needed is a full computerisation of the administration of the National Insurance Scheme.

These are only some of the proposals advanced by the Ministry of Labour and we have no doubt that they provided much mental pabulum for the delegates in the discussions that followed.

New Union for Clerks

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 6 Sep 83 p 20

[Text]

A UNION has been launched in Barbados to represent clerks and allied workers in their hour of need.

The union, the Barbados Clerical Union, will bring representation to workers where there is none, and provide a cohesive leadership for the thousands of clerical workers on the island.

The organisation seeks to better the conditions of service of clerks, and provide more financial benefits and security of tenure where possible.

The official launching took place at the Garrison Room of the Hilton International last night. According to general secretary of the union, Mr. Sinclair Rudder, over 90 percent of the clerks in Barbados are without representation.

Mr. Rudder assured employers that the leadership of the Barbados Clerical Union would not condone laziness, disrespect or non-productivity of employees. "Our members will be encouraged to work honestly for the good of themselves and the whole community."

"We, the members of the Barbados Clerical Union, will strive for the day when employers and employees will see themselves not as foes, but rather as partners for progress," he said.

The union will represent shipping clerks, customs clerks, bank clerks, cashiers, assistant accountants, accountants, reporters, security guards, secretaries, stenotypists, bookkeepers, costing clerks and salesmen.

The office is located at room No.3 Ferguson House, 42 Tudor Street in Bridgetown.

President of the union is Mr. Dudley Eastwick, Vice-President is Mr. Carl McD. Robinson and Mr. Alex Smith is the assistant general secretary.

CSO: 3298/045

SUGAR INDUSTRY OFFICIAL WELCOMES GOVERNMENT PRICE SUPPORT

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 15 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

The sugar industry has been anticipating continued price support from Government.

This was stated yesterday by the head of the field section of Barbados Sugar Industries Limited, Geoffrey Armstrong.

Speaking during a radio interview, Mr. Armstrong said that Government had promised a second year of support when it had offered the Bds\$20 million sugar price support mechanism last year, and there had been no change in the international situation of low sugar prices which would warrant a refusal to continue assistance.

He was responding to the promise by Agriculture Minister Dr. Richard Cheltenham last Tuesday to carry to

Cabinet proposals for further price support.

"We realise this (support) will have to come to an end sometime but for two years we were promised a support price and this is what he assured us yesterday," Mr. Armstrong said.

The sugar industry official also responded to criticism by Dr. Cheltenham that 2 000 acres of plantation land has been taken out of production over the past three years by pointing out that over the past six months a big effort had been started to bring this land back into production.

He cited River and Vineyard Plantations, in St. Philip, as two estates which have begun re-cultivation of idle land.

CSO: 3298/045

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES INCREASE BY \$66 MILLION

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 10 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

Barbados tourism-led economy had accumulated \$200.6 million in foreign exchange reserves at the end of July, \$66 million more than for last year's corresponding period, according to Central Bank figures.

A Central Bank economist yesterday said foreign exchange reserves were being kept up by borrowings under a \$98.6 million loan agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The economist said about \$70 million had been drawn down from the agreement.

Foreign exchange reserves at July last year had totalled \$134.4 million.

A 60 per cent rise in the number of tourists coming from the United States pushed-up overall arrivals for the first seven months of the year by 5.5 per cent on last years 197 569.

Tourism, the island's chief foreign exchange earner, has been making steady progress after a three-year decline occasioned mainly by recession in North America and Europe.

Barbados last year reached agreement with the IMF for balance of payments support under a scheme for compensating export shortfalls and a borrowing arrangement which extends to 1984.

The Central Bank has already reported that the manufacturing sector failed to show any signs of revival in the first half of the year.

The other main plank of the economy, sugar, this year recorded a poor harvest of 85 100 tonnes — an 11-year low.

ADAMS AT PARTY MEETING RESPONDS TO DLP POLITICKING

Reply to DLP 'Rumors'

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 5 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Mr. Tom Adams, yesterday exhorted the people of Barbados not to be "turned back by the rumours and alarm which you read in the newspapers and which you hear from the platforms of the Democratic Labour Party (DLP).

Mr. Adams charged that the Opposition DLP had tried the politics of despair and was now trying the politics of alarm and rumour. "They like to put forward arguments supported by their acolytes in the press and by the Press, of disunity between the Ministers, they said that the Barbados Labour Party is divided," he added.

With obvious reference to the DLP, Mr. Adams said he knew of only one political party in this country that was divided; he knew of only one political party leader who has had to hold on, though he is tired, confused and

deserving of retirement; he has served this country well and it is time for him to go out of the pasture now.

Mr. Adams made the comments yesterday at his ruling Barbados Labour Party's "Reunion '83" at King George V Memorial Park, St. Philip, where thousands of people from across the country joined the top brass of the party in a day-long celebration, marking seven years in Government for the BLP.

It all started with a divine service, and continued with several other different activities, including a knock-out cricket match, and a musical extravaganza, featuring a number of local calypsonians and the Escorts band.

There was also fun for the kids, who engaged themselves on the swings, see-saw, and in other ways.

Assessment of Economy

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 5 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

PLANTATION tenants in Barbados are not utilising the funds provided by Government for them to purchase the lands they are now living on.

According to Prime Minister Tom Adams the framework to bring the land to the people had been established, but things were moving slowly, since tenants did not know what facilities were available to them.

The Prime Minister told a large gathering at the Barbados Labour Party's Reunion '83

Thanksgiving and Togetherness function at the King George V Memorial Park yesterday, that over \$1 million was available at the Barbados National Bank to lend for this purpose and not one single person had applied for a loan.

He said he wanted to see persons coming forward, both the young and the old plantation tenants for the funds which were there to "turn wood into stone", and for general home improvement.

Mr. Adams said: "I want to see houses growing in the next three years like cane out of the

ground."

He pointed out that there was \$35 000 ceiling on loans provided for persons to buy their own homes.

In his forecast of the economic situation, Prime Minister Adams observed that there were signs of improvement in the economy. He said that although he was no prophet he could say that unemployment was falling.

Between April this year and March next year there was a predicted two to three percent drop, and Government should achieve the target of a single digit figure by the next elections Mr. Adams said.

The Prime Minister told the party faithful that inflation had been kept down at a rate of five percent and that he expected there would be nothing to make things worse during the next 12 months.

He stated that the island was expected to earn some \$5 million in tourist earnings during this year on the basis of the signs of improvement.

CSO: 3298/044

DEPARTMENTAL CHANGES IN TWO MINISTRIES REPORTED

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 9 Sep 83 p 2

[Text]

Those Departments of Government which fell under the Ministry of Community Services have now been transferred to the Ministry of Labour.

According to an official of the Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Sports now has responsibility for the following Departments:- Day Nurseries, Factory Inspection, Labour, National Assistance, National Insurance, Old Age Pensions, Sport, Welfare Services, The Labour Department, The National Insurance Office, The Welfare Department, The Barbados Boxing Board of Control, The Child Care Board, The National Assistance Board, The

National Insurance Board and The National Sports Council.

The Ministry of Health which formerly accommodated Community Services will now be responsible for only the health and medical services.

The Departments under the Ministry of Health are The District Hospitals, The Health Centres and Polyclinics, The Hillside Home, The Psychiatric Hospital, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, The Dental Council, The General Nursing Council, The Medical Council, The Paramedical Professions Council, The Psychiatric Hospital Visiting Committee and The Sanitation Service Authority. (BGIS)

CSO: 3298/044

ADAMS COMMENTS ON DECISION TO SEND TRADE MISSION TO BAHAMAS

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 10 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

Prime Minister Tom Adams has said it was of significance that Barbados should be the first country to despatch a trade mission to the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, the newest member of CARICOM.

Mr. Adams made the comment in a message to a Barbados trade mission which flew out of the island yesterday for the Bahamas.

Mr. Adams said the mission comprised some of Barbados' most innovative and enterprising businessmen and as such took with it the best wishes of the Government and people of Barbados.

"I believe that the success of this epoch-marking trek will be measured not just in financial terms, but in the enhanced quality of the relationships between our peoples", he said.

Other messages relayed to the manufacturers came from the Barbados Central Bank and the Export Promotion Corporation, and were carried in a brochure to highlight the mission to the Bahamas.

This mission made up of representatives from at least 20 manufacturing concerns, and other officials, will be mounting an exhibition tomorrow at the Nassau Beach Hotel.

The products to be put on display are already in the Bahamas.

Also there is Mr. David "Joey" Harper who is the Coordinator of the mission, having researched the potential for Barbadian products in that country.

One of the members of the team Mr. Vanburn Gaskin said at the Airport yesterday that research done by Mr. Harper had indicated there was a good potential for the products the Barbadians will be displaying.

He said the market was an open one, there was no licensing system and he foresaw no problems in the repatriation of funds to Barbados.

It's the first time a Barbadian trade mission will be going to the Bahamas which this year became a member of CARICOM.

FURTHER DETAILS ON KOREAN PLANS TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 16 Sep 83 p 9

[Article by Irvine Reid]

[Text]

South Korea, which is now establishing an embassy in Barbados to serve the eastern Caribbean, says it is moving to strengthen its economic relationship with the region.

First South Korean Ambassador to Barbados, Myung Hwan Yu told CANA: "We have decided to establish an embassy here to improve our economic relationship in two ways: one is to share our development experience and secondly we want to have a more substantial trade relationship with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)."

He added: "Korea has been very successful during the last two decades in developing its economic growth. We don't have large resources, what we have is manpower and CARICOM I believe have the same, therefore we want to share our experience in economic development with those developing countries in CARICOM."

Mr. Hwan Yu, who recently presented his credentials here, is also to be accredited to the seven members of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States — St. Vincent and the

Grenadines, St. Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Montserrat, Grenada and St. Kitts-Nevis.

The diplomat said Korea, in seeking close trade relations with the region would be holding discussion with Government and private sector officials in an effort to establish joint ventures.

Mr Hwan Yu said that Korea is thinking of bringing some semi-finished products into Barbados so that the finishing touches could be put to them here for re-export to the United States and Europe.

By doing this, he said, Korea hoped to create job opportunities in Barbados.

"The market is big enough for medium-size assembly plants and if possible to have plants producing the products from beginning to end. We are also looking at joint ventures between CARICOM and Korea," he said.

Ambassador Hwan Yu said Korea was looking specifically at areas like electronic equipment such as colour television sets, video recorders and electrical appliances.

"We are also looking at the possibility of bringing bicycle and motor bikes to be assembled here for

export.

"We are also thinking of manufacturing foodware and garments in Barbados and if the products produced are of a good quality we have a market for them in the United States and Europe", he said.

The Korea ambassador said that his government was hoping to take advantage of the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) — Washington' aid and trade pact for Central America and the Caribbean states — to increase its exports to the U.S.

He said that because of the American import quota system his country had been unable to increase sales to the U.S., but "by having some of our products assembled here we could take advantage of the CBI and the fact that there is no quota system for the Caribbean."

The Korea official said that he would be holding discussions with Barbados on the possibility of his country buying sugar and rum from Barbados.

He said that at present Korea buys its sugar on the international market, but "since we are not committed to any one country I think that its a good chance for us to buy sugar from Barbados."

BLACKMAN'S OUSTER FROM CABINET IGNITES REACTIONS

Prefiring Surrender of Portfolio

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 7 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

Health Minister Dr. Don Blackman has given up one of his portfolios.

Dr. Blackman said he had asked the Prime Minister, Mr. Tom Adams as head of the Cabinet, to relieve him of the portfolio of Community Services and Welfare, following what he said were accusations by some politicians that his constituents were benefiting exclusively from the welfare services.

Dr. Blackman is Parliamentary representative for St. Michael-East.

He said he was "sick and tired" of the charges.

He pointed out also that he had only been able to get Bds\$200 000 of the \$1.2 million allocated to the Ministry of Community Services in this year's Estimates.

Dr. Blackman said it was the middle of the rainy season and elderly people were complaining of getting wet whenever it rained, and he was

convinced that as long as he was in the Ministry further funds will not be forthcoming.

Dr. Blackman was not too optimistic about the future of his social development programme since he was a link between that and the Ministry of Health.

However the Barbados Advocate understands that Dr. Blackman's account of the matter has not been accepted by his colleagues. It is understood that on Friday the Governor General was advised to transfer the portfolio with effect from last Monday. Further developments are also expected.

The portfolio of Community Services and Welfare has been given to Labour Minister, Mr. DeLisle Bradshaw, who is currently out of the island.

It is understood that Dr. Blackman and some of his Cabinet colleagues have not been seeing eye to eye.

PPM Comment

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 8 Sep 83 p 2

[Text]

LEADER of the People's Pressure Movement (PPM), Mr. Eric Sealy, has said that there must be General Elections in Barbados within the next 12 months as a result of the "hasty and cruel" decision that had been taken by the Barbados Labour Party.

The PPM leader was commenting on the revocation of the appointment of Dr. Don Blackman yesterday from the Cabinet of Prime Minister Tom Adams.

Sealy said: "Barbados is now in a far better position as regards the dismissal or resignation of Dr. Don Blackman from his ministry. I say that because, quite naturally, there have been, for many months, a conflict of opinions and policies which existed between Dr. Blackman, as a representative, and other people in the BLP."

Sealy added: "I am confident that Dr. Blackman has a great measure of national support."

Blackman Call for Probe

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 9 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

FORMER Minister of Health, Dr. Don Blackman, has called for an investigation into the spending of funds under one of the portfolios he held — Community Services and Welfare.

Dr. Blackman said he would like such a probe because of accusations by politicians that his constituents were benefiting exclusively from the welfare services.

He had said that he was sick and tired of these charges, noting that he had only been able to get \$200 000 of the \$1.2 million allocated to the Ministry of Community Services in this year's estimates.

Meantime, no decision has yet been made on Dr. Blackman's political future since the revocation of his appointment as a

Cabinet minister last Wednesday.

A meeting of the national executive of his St. Michael East constituency branch had to be called off Wednesday night because it was attended by a crowd of 400 to 500 people, who had demanded to hear what was going on at the executive meeting.

However, Dr. Blackman will hold a political meeting on Sunday night at the Ivy, St. Michael, at which he would deal with the events leading up to "my resignation on Thursday, September 1, 1983."

He said that a statement issued on Wednesday by Prime Minister Tom Adams had not mentioned that "I offered my resignation verbally."

CSO: 3298/043

BONN DENIES DLP CHARGES OF AID TO TROOP TRAINING

Embassy Statement

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 3 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

West Germany has described as "completely absurd" allegations by the Opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP) here of German mercenaries training local defence force soldiers.

A brief statement to the Caribbean News Agency (CANA) from the West German Embassy in Trinidad said: "These allegations are completely absurd and cannot be described (as anything else) but nonsense."

"Reference is also made to the prior rejection of these allegations by Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Security Tom Adams to which nothing is to be added."

Opposition Leader Errol Barrow charged at

his party's annual conference Sunday that both German mercenaries and the CIA have been training local soldiers.

He also alleged that government spending on the military reached the \$90 million mark during 1982-83. But Prime Minister Adams said in a statement government spending in this area was less than the \$9.7 million allocated for in the budget.

On the allegation about German mercenaries, Mr. Adams said the Defence Force had received training from a team of British soldiers but not from mercenaries of any nationality.

In his reference to the allegation about the CIA he said: "So far as I know the Central Intelligence Agency is not a military organisation."

Criticism of Barrow

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 11 Sep 83 p 4

["In Focus" column by Henry Christopher: "A Sorry Spectacle"]

[Text]

ALL Barbadians must have felt ashamed at the sorry spectacle of a major European power having to slap down in public a man who had only days before loudly proclaimed that he was

"ready and available" to be this country's next Prime Minister.

For no matter what one's political allegiance is no one could be pleased or proud to see the political humiliation

Errol Barrow incurred through West Germany having to heap scorn on his allegations that German mercenaries had trained members of the Barbados Defence Force (BDF).

So we all must have cringed at the West Germany's announcement that "These allegations are completely absurd and cannot be described as anything else but nonsense."

But apart from the embarrassment he brought to himself and Barbados, Mr. Barrow's unfounded and unproven charges about the Defence Force also casts doubts on his suitability for further leadership of this nation.

Furthermore, his remarks cannot be described as a "slip of the tongue" since neither has he claimed to have been misquoted as he did over other parts of his statement which had been readily and convincingly repudiated by Prime Minister Tom Adams.

The mere fact that Mr. Barrow steered clear of any further reference to German mercenaries indicates that they were utterly irresponsible and were certainly not to be expected of a person well advanced in age who had the honour and responsibility to lead Barbados for 15 unbroken years.

But this tendency to indulge in irresponsible utterances that embarrassed Barbados goes back to nearly seven years. We can readily recall Mr. Barrow's pronouncement on the Cubana air disaster that had taken place just weeks after the Adams government had come to power in 1976.

The Barbadian authorities had stressed that we did not have any jurisdiction over those who had sabotaged the Cubana flight since the plane had gone down outside of Barbados territorial limits. However, Mr. Barrow took issue with this, adamantly stating that he had seen the plane crash within our territorial waters and therefore Barbados should bring the offenders to justice here.

The outcome was that an impartial Commission of Enquiry established from the evidence of marine experts that the plane had crashed beyond Barbados' territorial limits.

The Opposition Leader had told his followers at the DLP's annual conference that he was ready and available "to lead the party to victory in the next general elections". And because he obviously has the time on his hands, nobody would doubt that he was indeed "ready and available".

But if "readiness" were seen not purely in terms of "eagerness" or "willingness" but instead from the point of view of being suitably prepared and qualified, then both Mr. Barrow and the DLP have been utterly disqualified

from the task of governing Barbados' affairs.

Being "ready" also involves one's physical and intellectual state for a particular undertaking.

Those who still try to project Mr. Barrow as the man he was nearly 22 years ago despite the fact that he is now over 63 years old, have of late been basing their case on what they saw as a superb performance from him during the 1983 Budget Debate. It is like a batsman being pushed to be captain of a test match series on the strength of one slightly improved innings out of a long string of failures.

When Mr. Barrow led this country one of the reasons why the office of Prime Minister took such a heavy physical and intellectual toll on him was because the talent surrounding him was of such a poor state that he had to shoulder much more than he should have.

Seven years after being swept out of office neither he nor his party has done or said anything to indicate that he has been rejuvenated or that there has been a strong infusion of talent into the organisation.

In fact, when one reads and listens to what the Dems were primarily concerned with at the party's conference, it is absolutely clear that the DLP has intellectually retrogressed.

I had predicted that the conference would be obsessed with a trite recitation of the social and other ills it had been lamenting over the years. To a large extent the conference's deliberations amply bore out my predictions. President Branford Taitt trotted out a great deal of platitudes and superficialities.

Still, I never would have thought that the DLP would have underlined its intellectual stagnation by resurrecting the "We are Ready" theme and slogan that had been so comprehensively rejected by the electorate more than two years ago.

The DLP must have been thinking along the same lines as the editorial writer in another newspaper that fell for the party's propaganda blandishments and equated the fact that the DLP had endorsed 17 of its 27 candidates for the next General Elections as a sure sign that the organisation is indeed "ready" to run Barbados' affairs.

Apparently neither the DLP nor the editorial writer realised that had the naming of candidates been representative of a state of suitability, then the DLP should have been nearly ready in June 1981 when it had put forward 27 candidates to contest all of the constituencies.

From all appearances it seems that the DLP has a fixation with holding on desperately to rejects, whether they be campaign themes or personalities. That is the only conclusion that can be reached from the party's decision at such an early stage to saddle itself with Mr. Barrow's leadership in the next General Elections, the party under Mr. Barrow having twice in succession been spurned by the electorate.

Even more so, by accepting the party's offer Mr. Barrow has decidedly put the end to the hopes and ambitions for leadership of the younger elements in the party.

In addition, Mr. Barrow is obviously telling the public that he is not convinced that these younger and more energetic persons are worthy of consideration as national leaders. In other words, while he considers himself to be "ready", he sees them as not. Thus, in the immortal words of Sir Herbert Duffus, "All Roads lead to Barrow".

As it stands, Mr. Barrow will have a tough time convincing the public that he is "ready" in every sense of the word to meet the demands inherent in the political leadership of this country. Judging from his proclamations about German mercenaries and other features of the Defence Force, Mr. Barrow is yet to show that he meets the exacting requirements.

All eyes will be on him when Parliament resumes as he has effectively shoved the younger aspirants way into the background. We will have to wait and see if his attendance in the very active Adams Parliamentary style will be more frequent and long lasting.

BARROW INTERVIEWED, COMMENTS ON ELECTORAL PROCESS

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 4 Sep 83 p 2

[Text]

OPPOSITION Leader, Mr. Errol Barrow, says he is not in favour of increasing the number of seats in the House of Assembly at present.

There are now 27 seats in that chamber.

Speaking in an interview with THE SUN, Barrow said he was in favour of the appointment of an independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission.

And he said that he did not think that in a small country like Barbados, we needed a larger number of members in the Lower Chamber.

He was of the view that that would not improve the quality of debate. "Maybe," he said, "when the population of Barbados increases beyond the 300 000 mark, there may be a case for some kind of increase in the number of members of the House."

"But what I think we need to do now, is to make some minor adjustments so that one constituency does not become disproportionately larger than other constituencies, which is the tendency in urban areas."

On the question of the register of electors, Barrow said that his party was asking for a return, before the next general election, to the publication of the monthly list of electors.

He said: "We are requesting that no list should be brought three days before the election like the last time when all the candidates from both sides had sent out their notices and circulars according to the list which was published just over three weeks before the elections."

Barrow pointed out that if there was a monthly list, people would get an opportunity to check it from time to time, and it should be prominently displayed in places like churches and schools.

Barrow said that the list ought to be published under the Representation of the People Act and not the Statistical Services Act because 14 600 people who were non-Barbadians were put on the register under the Statistical

Services Act, and right up to the last moment, the Government had denied that the purposes of that enumeration were for the purposes of election.

ADEQUATE

He said there was adequate machinery under the Representation of the People Act for the registration and enumeration of voters for the publication of the monthly register, and for persons to be added to the electoral roll and for the names of people who were no longer in the island to be taken off, and those who were dead, and those who for other reasons did not qualify to have their names on the register.

"It is a denial of the democratic process therefore to publish the list only once a year," Barrow said.

Barrow is in favour of having scrutineers. He said that when the present Government was in opposition, it had said that there should be scrutineers but the whole procedure was already in train.

At that time, Barrow said, his administration had resisted the idea of scrutineers.

Barrow thought his Government was wrong in not accepting the then Opposition's suggestion at that time, even though it might have meant spending a little more money.

Barrow conceded that governments should legislate, not only according to their own standards, but they should take the lowest common denominator in any society into consideration when enacting legislation.

And he said about scrutineers: "That was our mistake".

BRIEFS

EXPORTS TO UK--Barbados' exports to Britain during the period January to June this year declined by 60.3 per cent when compared with the same period last year. Figures released by the British High Commission in Bridgetown show that the Barbados exports to Britain for the first six months of 1983 stood at Bds\$7.4 million as opposed to \$18 648 million for the same time in 1982, an 11 248 million drop. With regard to imports from Britain for the same period, there was a 10.6 per cent increase over the same period last year, from \$39 072 million in 1982 to \$43 216 million in 1983. Total exports from the English-speaking Caribbean to Britain increased by 15 per cent, from \$405 224 million in 1982 to \$465.9 million in 1983. Caribbean imports from Britain for first half of this year increased by 45 per cent, from \$452 584 million in 1982 to \$651.2 million in 1983. [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 2 Sep 83 p 1]

IDC ASSISTANCE--The Barbados Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) is to try to do more to assist local entrepreneurs in the preparation of pre-feasibility studies for new ventures. Head of the IDC's Brussels office, Mr. Errol Humphrey, said that some businessmen had been reluctant to invest their money in pre-feasibility studies because of uncertainty over whether the venture would get off the ground. He said this was one of the reasons why so few projects from Barbados had been submitted to the European Centre for Industrial Development--an agency which seeks to find European joint venture partners for projects in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States. According to Mr. Humphrey, another reason for the Centre getting so few Barbadian projects is that not enough is known about that agency in Barbados. [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 2 Sep 83 p 1]

TAX ARREARS--More than Bds\$13 million in national insurance contributions and other tax payments is owed to Government by employers and operators of businesses who have failed to pay over these deductions to the Department of Inland Revenue and the National Insurance Office. This was revealed yesterday by Senator St. Clair Howell, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance, after meeting with senior officials of the Ministry of Finance and of the departments involved, to assess the situation and to discuss methods of curbing such practices. Senator Howell, in deploring the situation, said that what made the practice most depressing, was the fact that the majority of the funds being withheld are deductions from the salaries of employees, and in the case of the Hotel and Restaurant Sales Tax, money which has been paid on the spot

by customers. The Parliamentary Secretary suggested that there was a need for major changes in the appropriate pieces of legislation to ensure that such misappropriation of Government funds is stamped out and that it did not recur. He said recommendations in this respect will be made to the Attorney General shortly. The Parliamentary Secretary urged all defaulters to settle their debts "and so fulfill their legal and moral obligations. [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 15 Sep 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/046

ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY TO BE SUBJECT OF AKTIV MEETING

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 21 Sep 83 p 1

[Article by Jose M. Norniella]

[Text] The National Party Aktiv on the Profitability of Enterprises which begins in October must be turned into a vigorous mass movement that will investigate, discover and establish where or in what production process it is possible to save on material, labor and financial resources in order to reduce costs.

This was the spirit that reigned during the two days of the meeting of the Economic Department of the Central Committee with provincial departments, at which an analysis was made of the different and important economic issues, including the organization and development of the Party Aktiv in each territory.

At the present time, a summons is being distributed in all provinces from the Central Committee Secretariat to rank-and-file organizations located in enterprises belonging to the material production sphere, in order to activate the National Party Aktiv on the Profitability of Enterprises.

The National Aktiv will take place on 15-16 January 1984 at the Convention Palace in this capital. It will bring together some 500 participants, including general secretaries of cells and committees in enterprises, general secretaries of trade union organizations, heads of enterprises, party and government officials and guests.

Over 250,000 members and potential members organized in the cells of sugar, agricultural, industrial, construction, transportation and communications enterprises will debate the content of the summons.

The National Party Aktiv is being called to analyze to what extent we are fulfilling the essence of the economic guideline that enterprises should cover their expenses out of their own income and receive profits. At this time, the degree of efficiency achieved by enterprises is still unsatisfactory and the economic awareness of cadres has not reached the desired level.

According to documents regulating internal party life, "the Party Aktiv is a meeting called to discuss a specific issue. It is a form of party work by

means of which cadres, members and prospective party members become acquainted with, analyze, evaluate, propose and promote the main aspects of work with respect to the economy, political and social activities or the internal life of the party."

Since the Aktiv is not an organ or organization of the party, the matters considered are not submitted for a vote. Nor are accords and resolutions adopted. It is the leadership organizations that call the meeting and analyze the experiences, opinions and suggestions of the Aktiv and they may make decisions and come to agreements they deem necessary in order to solve problems.

By virtue of the very nature of the Aktivs, there is no discussion of administrative matters or of aspects concerning administration of the government.

At the National Party Aktiv on the Profitability of Enterprises, the rank and file will be heard in very direct and frank contact of members with the comrades who occupy different party and government leadership posts. They will calmly and judiciously reveal their opinions in an independent manner, without outside intervention and with complete responsibility.

Party members and potential members will take their own ideas to the Aktivs concerning the causes preventing their enterprise or establishment or workshop from improving the degree of profitability, in some cases, or from achieving profitability if not previously reached. When told that it is impossible to calculate profitability, then they will analyze the reason for the high costs of production in order to lower them.

No one must be afraid if there are individuals speaking in economic or technical terms. At such meetings, it will often be inevitable for such terminology to be used and it will sometimes be difficult for everyone to understand.

The essence of profitability is eminently practical, a fact not yet realized by many. Profitability must be approached directly: by saving on material, labor and financial resources in order to reduce production costs. Where and how to save is something workers know without any need to have formal instruction in accounting or economics. What is happening is that they are rarely heard and their opinions and suggestions are not heeded.

All workers know perfectly well where it is possible to save more and how labor forces could be used more advantageously, how to increase production and the use of equipment and, in general, how we could reduce all kinds of spending and where work could be done better.

Workers are the ones who know the best, based on their own personal experience, what is happening in the range of action of their own job. It is to the revolutionary sense of responsibility of each worker that the party must appeal in order that each one may reveal to his comrades the defects, deficiencies and errors that are harming the socialist economy and hindering the development of the economic management and planning system.

If this is achieved, we shall have accomplished the objective of the party in calling its National Aktiv on the Profitability of Enterprises: generating a powerful mass movement that will promote the economic awareness of everyone so that uninterrupted actions will be undertaken aimed at saving on resources and improving work productivity in order to reduce production costs.

The National Party Aktiv will be a true party congress in order to analyze and find a solution to the cardinal problem of the socialist economy: economic efficiency.

11,464

CSO: 3248/51

RENEWED WARNING AGAINST PRIVATE HOG RAISING

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 20 Sep 83 p 3

[Resolution 236-83 of the Ministry of Agriculture, 7 September 1983]

[Text] Whereas: As a result of the outbreak of African swine fever in the territory including City of Havana and Havana provinces, a ban has been placed on hog raising by the private sector, due to the fact that these provinces are the principal targets of the bacteriological war waged by imperialism against our country, selected because they have the highest population density and industrial concentration and because they have the largest number of schools, hospitals and other objectives whose hygienic-sanitary protection is indispensable;

Whereas: Decree No 110 of 30 September 1982, "Regulation on the Sanitary Protection of Swine," establishes requirements for hog raising in the state, cooperative and private sectors, inasmuch as it is not feasible in the provinces in question for the private sector to guarantee control of the measures established because of the scattered and small-scale nature of hog raising in that sector, which hinders strict health control by veterinarians, as is the case in large production centers;

Whereas: Given the fact that in the territories of these provinces one finds 11 percent of all beef production in the country, 21 percent of hog production and 25 percent of all poultry production, 30 percent of all eggs produced in the country, 34 percent of all milk production, along with 22 percent of all ranches, 21.6 percent of all hog farms and 30.8 percent of all poultry farms, it is necessary to have adequate measures to protect these facilities;

Whereas: The inherent characteristics of City of Havana and Havana provinces mentioned in the foregoing paragraphs result in the need to ban hog raising by the private sector in those territories in order to prevent diseases resulting from the serious danger entailed by hog raising from the standpoint of the health of swine in the country and livestock in general in those two provinces;

Whereas: The final provision of Decree No 110 of 30 September 1982 empowers the minister of agriculture to set forth measures required to maintain proper sanitary control of hogs in the country;

Therefore: In accordance with the duties, powers and functions bestowed upon me, I hereby resolve:

- 1) to prohibit small farmers, private individuals and any person in the private sector from raising hogs in the territory of City of Havana and Havana provinces;
- 2) to grant a period of 30 days from the publication of this resolution in the GACETA OFICIAL so that such persons may slaughter, sell to the state or move such animals;
- 3) in the case of failure to comply with these requirements within the time established, then the Institute of Veterinary Medicine will seize such animals, reporting the action to the proper people's court, which will then stipulate what action is to be taken; and
- 4) that a certified copy of this resolution be submitted to the proper persons and organizations and that it be published in the GACETA OFICIAL of the republic.

Ministry of Agriculture
City of Havana
7 September 1983, Year of the 30th
Anniversary of Moncada

Adolfo Diaz Suarez
Minister of Agriculture

11,464
CSO: 3248/51

COALITION TALK DOMINATES POLITICAL SCENE

PR Talks with Center-Left

Guatemala City DIARIO EL GRAFICO in Spanish 22 Sep 83 p 5

[Interview with general secretary of Revolutionary Party, Napoleon Alfaro; date and place of interview not specified]

[Text] Atty Napoleon Alfaro, general secretary of the Revolutionary Party [PR], said today: "The Revolutionary Party is not worried about an earlier or later date for the elections. What does concern us are the conditions for a clean and honest electoral process."

The political leader added: "There are some incongruities at the present time: As we all know, there is talk today of abolishing the Population Register, and thus making use of the residence card valid again, a document which, until recently, was considered discredited and devoid of any credibility, and which has, by some miracle, regained full credibility and is going to be used for the elections."

[Question] Exactly what are the conditions which you would list as preliminary for feeling that an electoral process is guaranteed?

[Answer] The freedom of judgment which must be exercised in the formation of civil defense brigades, for while these people are under a system of military discipline, a kind of psychological influence could be exerted on them in order to manipulate their will in a certain direction. Another obstacle which we see is the structuring of municipalities in the country's interior, for like it or not, current mayors, who are appointed by the executive branch, represent a particular political orientation.

[Question] Could you specify what that orientation is or which party or parties are involved?

[Answer] We have made a field study and have concluded that most of the mayors could be classified as rightist thinkers; in order to avoid that, we are publicly recommending to the present government that when the Constituent Assembly election is scheduled, elections for mayors and municipal corporations should also be scheduled, since we would thus have a really democratic foundation for ending

up with general elections and, at the same time, we would be returning autonomy to the municipalities, which is an especially revolutionary achievement.

[Question] You spoke about the use of residence cards as a device which could tend toward fraud, isn't that so?

[Answer] I referred to the paradox resulting from a document, which had been considered completely discredited, having regained its prestige, as though by magic, within the brief span of 2 months. And I am not making this up. You need only read the provisions of the law establishing the Population Register and it is stated therein.

[Question] Then what do you believe should be the solution?

[Answer] First, in order to regain credibility among the Guatemalan people, they must be given correct and specific information as to what the electoral processes will involve.

Just imagine that at this late date there is still talk of changing the election calendar, and such vagueness produces uncertainty and distrust among the people. As was previously stated, that it is impossible to establish the use of the personal identity card, it should be clarified whether we are going to vote using the citizenship card or the residence card. But regardless of which document is used, the important thing is that information be provided about how voter lists will be derived.

My view is that these lists should be derived from each municipality's records of births, marriages and deaths, for that is where accurate data on births and deaths can be obtained.

[Question] There are rumors of false cards, thousands of them, but are these residence cards or citizenship cards?

[Answer] As the Revolutionary Party has never been or formed part of any fraud in Guatemala's political history, no party member is therefore in a position to dispel that doubt.

[Question] Then what do you believe should be used for the upcoming elections?

[Answer] As I said before, it makes no difference to us whether the residence card or the citizenship card is used. What does concern us is how voter lists will be obtained, and that 327 municipal corporations should be elected at the same time as the Constituent Assembly.

[Question] Does your answer mean that the present mayors of more than 300 municipalities are not trustworthy?

[Answer] Not so much that they are not trustworthy as much as the fact that they are guilty of an original sin, that of having been appointed by one person and not as a result of the expressed will of the people they represent.

[Question] Are various groups still fighting the PR?

[Answer] The board of directors which I chair is not fighting with anyone, that is, it is open to dialogue with all revolutionary friends and sectors which, for one reason or another, disagree with our way of thinking, and we are trying, in particular, to settle our differences peacefully. We have therefore confirmed this in an affidavit filed with the Register of Citizens and are prepared to accept the decision of the respective authorities; if the vote is favorable to us, we will open our doors to all friends who have disagreed with this board of directors in one way or another, although we are concerned about the manner, the unity of the revolutionary family, and the alliance with all democratic sectors of the country.

[Question] There won't be any alliances with parties such as the MLN [National Liberation Movement], PID [Democratic Institutional Party] or CAN [Nationalist Authentic Federation]?

[Answer] We have been talking with the United Revolutionary Front, FUR, Dr Carlos Gehiart Mata's Christian Socialists and are about to establish a dialogue with the URD [Democratic Revolutionary Union], led by Humberto Gonzalez Gamarra, and we will of course form no alliance with other sectors of thought.

[Question] Are you expecting real, effective democratic pluralism, as has been advertised?

[Answer] That's a good advertisement, but it is very difficult to believe in the product advertised, because the law concerning political organizations has many loopholes, and I will list some of them: For example, it is said that in order for a political party to establish itself as such, it must collect 4,000 signatures in 12 departments and 50 municipalities, and they must be from literate persons. With a population such as ours, the vast majority of whom are illiterate, and within such a short period, like the one allowed, this will be very difficult, especially for the new committees. For so-called traditional parties, such as the Revolutionary Party, with governing boards in the republic's 327 municipalities, this presents no problem. But at this stage, they have not even prepared the membership forms, which must be notarized with no more than 20 signatures each. My party previously made a feasibility study on collecting signatures throughout the republic and the cost, in general terms, would exceed 50,000 quetzales.

[Question] From what you say, you give me the impression that the new committees are on shaky ground, aren't they?

[Answer] I would say so, because they are faced with a very easy situation for forming their provisional boards of directors, but the pitfall lies in the difficulty which they will have in making the transition from committee to political party. And they will experience this when they have to comply with these requirements.

[Question] I see an image of continuity with political parties enjoying the facilities which they have had in the past, is that correct?

[Answer] They enjoy the same difficulties; what happens is that because they already have a structure organized at the national level, they can implement membership mechanisms with more facility.

[Question] And what do you think about Roberto Alejos' statement to the effect that political parties were receiving money from the government while forming an electoral front with government support?

[Answer] He was no doubt the brains behind that front, because everyone is aware of the claims which he has made, claims which go beyond his possibilities. And this is an irresponsible, generalized accusation without any legal basis. The only thing he is seeking is free publicity, which we are not willing to give him.

Rightist Coalition Necessitates Leftist Alliance

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 22 Sep 83 p 2

[Text] Atty Leopoldo Urrutia Beltran, the leader of Democratic Alliance (AD), stated yesterday: "If rightist parties are united in the upcoming elections, an alliance of the forces of centrist and leftist-center parties will necessarily have to take place."

The political leader was referring to the current rumors concerning possible unification of rightist groups, which include the MLN, PID, CAN and FUN.

"Such unity," Urrutia emphasized, "seems to be strong at present, but it must be remembered that democratic centrist and leftist-center groups could give specific shape to their views and march together in the upcoming electoral process."

"There is no question," he stressed, "that if rightist parties unite, leftist and centrist groups will necessarily have to do likewise, since they would be heading directly for defeat otherwise."

Urrutia explained that the parties which could unite are the DC [Guatemalan Christian Democracy], PR, FUR, UCN [National Civic Union] and AD, as well as others wishing to participate in the approaching election together with these organizations.

The campaign committee leader pointed out that AD is gathering strength in the interior.

Local Branches

In other statements, the former deputy mentioned the various branches which are being formed in the country's interior.

"The branch of the committee in Jutiapa was recently established, as well as another in Jalapa, and by this weekend still another will be sworn in in Retalhuleu," he said.

Urrutia pointed out that there are already numerous groups forming around the AD.

MLN, CAN Comment on Coalitions

Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 21 Sep 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] The MLN and CAN will be united in the upcoming election.

Leaders of these political organizations acknowledged today that talks for this purpose have begun.

In other words, the alliance of these two parties of conservative orientation is underway.

"We share the same goal: to confront the leftists in the upcoming election," leaders of both parties said.

Both the MLN and CAN were losers in the last election.

Their candidates, Mario Sandoval Alarcon and Gustavo Anzueto Vielman, were defeated by Gen Angel Anibal Guevara, the PID-PR-FUN coalition's candidate.

"As a result of differences which could have been resolved in time, we lost that election," MLN and CAN leaders noted.

Now they do not want to suffer another defeat and believe that their experience was beneficial, and will therefore join forces.

The talks concerning the alliance are apparently at the level of each party's board of directors and will later be discussed by the highest leaders.

These leaders are, in this regard, atty Mario Sandoval Alarcon of the MLN and Gen Carlos Manuel Arana Osorio of CAN.

These parties' members expect leftist parties to also be united in the upcoming election.

And they don't want the latter to "get the jump on them" as a result of having acted too slowly.

They are not mistaken in their assessments, for there are winds carrying talk of an alliance among the DC, PNR [Reformist National Party], PR and FUR as well.

Nor is it possible to rule out the possibility that the MLN and CAN will unite with the PID, the Democratic Institutional Party.

According to political analysts, the PID has taken refuge under the MLN's "wing" and has probably been receiving advice from atty Sandoval Alarcon in recent weeks.

The PID went over to the other side in the last election, forming a coalition with the PR and supporting the candidacy of General Guevara.

It formerly maintained a "political romance" with the MLN, which enabled it to obtain a natural share of power in the government of Gen Kjell Laugerud.

The MLN, PID and CAN have been urging a return to constitutional government.

They also tried to expedite the scheduling of elections during the government of General Rios Montt.

But Rios Montt did not yield to such pressure, preferring instead to raise the hopes of those seeking to "make their debut" in national politics the next year.

Some of the new civic committees might also join forces with the allied right.

MLN and CAN leaders concluded: "It will not take very long for this alliance to be established; talks are well underway."

FUN Considers Coalitions Premature

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 23 Sep 83 p 2

[Text] FUN's chairman, industrialist Roberto Alejos Arzu, said yesterday that "the National Unity Front (FUN) considers it premature to talk about alliances with other parties."

He said that such coalitions are traditional with the approach of general elections, but not in single instances for constituent assemblies, such as the upcoming process.

"It is likely that following the Constituent Assembly election, FUN will decide to form an alliance with another party or parties, but at least for the time being, that possibility is remote."

"However," Alejos added, "dialogue is a positive thing, it is a good way to clear up the serious problems afflicting us. I believe that it is appropriate to talk with leaders of other political institutions to find the solutions most needed by Guatemala today."

11915

CSO: 3248/21

CHARLES INTERVIEWED ON DOMESTIC SITUATION, CENTRAL AMERICA

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 5 Sep 83 p 2

[Interview with Gerard Pierre Charles, exiled Haitian revolutionary leader, published by the Uruguayan magazine CUESTION in May 1983; date and place not specified]

[Text] [Question] What is happening in Haiti today?

[Answer] We are living under a dictatorship which has lasted for 26 years and which oppresses the people in an extremely violent way, so in Haiti the prerequisites for an outbreak of revolutionary violence are more than present. Unfortunately, however, in fact the revolutionary forces have not managed in recent years to channel the generalized discontent into more advanced stages of struggle.

[Question] What are the manifestations of the people's resistance movement?

[Answer] The resistance against the Duvalier regime has been constant over the past 26 years, with a high point during the 1960's when vanguards were formed which challenged the regime. In 1969 the revolutionary movement suffered a severe blow. With imperialist support, using techniques of murder and destruction, techniques used also in Uruguay against the Tupamaros and in Argentina against the revolutionary movement, Duvalier won temporary success in his struggle. But in recent years the resistance has become evident again, although not in the form of armed conflict.

Considering the tremendous violence of the regime and the denial of the most basic human rights, the use of violence against the regime is more than justified, but the predominant form of resistance in recent years has been the peaceful effort to assure political freedom for the popular movement.

[Question] Aside from imperialist aid, what provides internal support for the regime?

[Answer] During the 26 years that the regime has been taking possession of capital resources, the bourgeoisie has become enormously rich, so this sector supports the regime; but because of the generalized corruption and inefficiency, even the dominant group is troubled by factions and problems.

[Question] How much unity do the democratic forces in Haiti have?

[Answer] There is a resurgence of the popular movement, and new forces are joining the struggle. In the first 15 years of the dictatorship, all the democratic sectors fought Duvalier and all were suppressed. During this stage, the communist movement was the best organized and it led the struggle. Today new groups have joined the fight, such as the Christian and Catholic organizations. PDC [Christian Democratic Party], though it does not take ideological stands, brings to bear the personal valor of its leader Silvio Claude. It cannot be identified with other Christian Democratic groups, and it is a popular anti-Duvalier party with political freedoms which is assisting in the fight against the dictatorship.

[Question] What is the goal of the democratic movement in Haiti?

[Answer] To open the way for political freedom, to raise the level of the resistance, to resist the terror which the dictatorship manipulates in an extremely efficient manner, to promote the unity of all people's forces, revolutionaries, Christian basic organizations, and the like.

These efforts will tend to create political freedoms and raise the level of the struggle of the Haitian masses.

[Question] Does the existence of a social democratic government in the Dominican Republic have any influence on the Haitian situation?

[Answer] I believe it is favorable to Haitian democracy, but the present situation, the present status of the struggle of the Haitian people, does not permit this favorable influence to be expressed.

[Question] Moving to regional questions, Gerard, what is the view of Haitian democrats of the situation in Central America?

[Answer] In Central America we see the fight of peoples traditionally oppressed and exploited by imperialism. This is a rebellion of small, humiliated nations, and therefore it has great importance as an example for all Latin America.

[Question] What do you think is the effect of the Falklands war on the sentiments of the peoples and even the governments of Latin America?

[Answer] The Falklands conflict has shown the best educated sectors of the dominant classes that there are inevitable and insoluble contradictions between the interests of imperialism and the peoples and nations of Latin America. So the Falklands conflict has stimulated nationalism, anti-interventionism and a distancing from the positions of the United States, even on the part of governments which cannot be considered progressive in internal affairs. The United States was unmasked and paid a high price for this.

[Question] We recognize and support initiatives for peace like the efforts of the Contadora group in behalf of Central America. Do you believe that the popular movement is doing enough against intervention in Nicaragua?

[Answer] You must realize that Reagan has to be taken very seriously; his plan is to wipe out the democratic, popular and independent movement in Central America. We support Contadora, an initiative which has great importance, but the popular movement has not used all the force necessary, if we consider that the fate of Latin America is at stake in Central America.

[Question] What more could be done?

[Answer] In view of the dimensions of the present intervention into Nicaragua, we believe it is a duty of all revolutionaries and patriots in Latin America to provide the fullest support for the Nicaraguan struggle, first by moving forward the developments in their own nations, and in second place, if the situation requires help in material terms, to aid the defense of the sovereignty of the Nicaraguan people, if the Sandinist Front and the government require it.

[Question] Gerard, would you care to add any comments for the readers of QUESTION?

[Answer] I would like to call attention to the Haitian situation. The problem of Haiti is in great measure the same as that of southern Latin America. Aside from coincidental differences, such as the fact that fascist terrorism was established several years earlier than in South America, the situation of oppression and extreme repression is similar. We need the peoples of Latin America and the whole world to show more interest in what is happening in Haiti, where we have an extreme case of poverty and fascist repression. In closing, I would like to reflect on the development of internationalism. Imperialist terrorist violence must increasingly oblige the peoples of Latin America to respond with all their strength in defense of the nations undergoing aggression, for their fate is the fate of all Latin America.

11989

CSO: 3248/1298

PAPER QUESTIONS IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT CHANGES

Port-au-Prince LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR 20-26 Aug 83 p 15

/Article: "Are the Haitians Living at a Time of Great Constitutional Change?"

/Text/ Recently, the life-term president of the republic invited journalists to be prepared for major changes to be announced. Through the press, the invitation of the chief of state was in fact addressed to the nation, which has so often been rocked by the hope that the political situation--and even the economic situation--will be freed up by government action.

At this time, what changes can one hope for, desire, and expect? An acceleration of the democratic process in which people firmly believed in the 1970's, when the regime of "the revolutionary permanence" unclamped the vise of censorship and openly accepted contradiction, contestation.

It goes without saying that everyone who went through, with open eyes, the nightmare of Black Friday and the coup of 28 November has good reason to doubt the promises of the official speech. However, the spirit of the municipal elections, their organization and execution seem to be presentiments of "spring," of a renewal, if one is to continue to believe those who gravitate around the power of Port-au-Prince.

Will the fruits exceed the promise of the flowers? No one thinks--and people have told us what they think--that the spirit of the municipal election is praiseworthy, but there is really no correlation between words and deeds. You might as well say that, at some levels, the organization of the municipalities has, in certain regions, been completely irrelevant. Men--and this is human nature--deliberately make mistakes for which they would like to blame democracy.

The life-term head of the nation therefore promises spectacular changes. For the time being, one can only speculate. How far will he go in these innovations which needless to say, may mean a deeper rupture with the past? Will real democracy be born out of these positions taken? This implies the right to free expression without the risk of committing a "violation of opinion" and to contradiction, which would assure the citizen that public affairs are everybody's business.

How far can the chief of state go in these innovations, when the power is often pulled back and forth by struggles for influence, the fluctuations of which can be measured by the decisions that accelerate or slow the progress of Haitian society toward democratic civilization? This would require, at the very least, the salutary presence of political parties, whose debates illuminate the way to follow. In any case, with this in view, an overhauling of the constitution would be necessary, as the current one does not facilitate the game of democracy, the parliamentary game which one might call the majority and the opposition. One question leading to another, will we see early legislative elections?

These are only hypotheses. History would once again be an eternal repetition. We were involved in a commotion identical to that in 1964 when the government of François Duvalier amended the Fundamental Charter.

All things considered, if this were so, the government of Jean-Claude Duvalier would have courageously immortalized itself by agreeing to do away with a constitution that had served its time and with those who inspired it. We would then speak of a second death.

12368

CSO: 3219/51

BRIEFS

CONFERENCE ON PROSTITUTION--"Over 20,000 male and female prostitutes today live on the outskirts of the capital, dragging their suffering, their physical and moral decay, their venereal diseases. The neurosis is now at the doorstep of our families." Such was the alert sounded by the excellent secretary of state for social affairs, Theodore E. Achille, on the occasion of the day of reflection on prostitution which recently took place at the Hotel Christopher on the theme "Prostitution in Haitian Society" under the dynamic direction of the Institute for Social Welfare and Research. Indeed, prostitution has become such a scandal in the Haitian community--and even involves many minors led astray by "procurers and maintained without soul or conscience"--that Minister Achille thought it urgent to warn fathers and mothers "that Haitian society cannot continue to see itself with this mask of horror." The recommendations made by Elien Joseph of the Haitian Center for Investigation in Social Sciences were noted with satisfaction: (a) increase the number of social services in the country; (b) create a sanitation police squad with the aid of other organizations to combat the tendency toward prostitution; (c) implement a sex-education philosophy capable of curbing the adolescents' sex drive and of compensating for the lack of affection in the home; (d) facilitate outlets on the job market. /Excerpts/ /Port-au-Prince LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR in French 20-26 Aug 83 p 16/ 12368

CSO: 3219/51

PMT DISSIDENTS LED BY VALLEJO TO JOIN PSUM

Mexico City PROCESO in Spanish 29 Aug 83 p 32

[Article by Oscar Hinojosa]

[Text] With the prediction that the PMT [Mexican Workers Party] "will die of starvation," Demetrio Vallejo and some 800 followers resigned from this organization and made known their intention to join the PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico], "which surely will present no obstacles."

In a press conference on Thursday 25 August, the leader of the railroad movement of 1958 said that the PMT is "plagued by the despotism and authoritarianism of Heberto Castillo."

Dionisio Noriega, one of the followers of Vallejo present at the press conference, maintained that the joining of the PSUM is practically a fact, because the PMT was the party that initiated the process of fusion and because there are no discrepancies with the principles of the Unified Socialists.

Noriega assured that "the matter of the party symbol" was not important for the Vallejo group. Also during the press conference, Heberto Castillo, Eduardo Valle, Violeta Vazquez and Jose Alvarez were accused of nepotism, because their relatives occupy managerial positions on committees without bases.

Vallejo stated that he is prepared to share party life with Velentin Campa, with whom he has had political differences, for "the PSUM is not the Mexican Communist Party and neither is Campa" and because "I hope that above all the unity of the Left will prevail."

Vallejo's resignation occurred 15 days before the beginning of the third regular national assembly of the PMT, which will define the political course of the PMT in view of the acute situation of the country, modify this party's basic documents and elect the new national directorate.

In response to Vallejo's position, Jose Alvarez Icaza told the reporter that the former railroad leader occupied the Secretariat of Organization for 9 years "in a high-handed and terroristic manner."

Due "to the former prestige of the leader," said Alvarez Icaza, "everyone thought that things were very well organized there. But on account of the upcoming national assembly, we have reviewed all of his work and, inasmuch as no one was helping him, we have found it very deficient and incomplete. Therefore, we have taken on the task of reworking the entire party structure."

He added sarcastically: "With extensive knowledge of the facts, which anyone can review, I can say that the 'destruction' that the leadership of Vallejo caused the PMT is minimal."

The PMT organization secretary rejected the accusations of nepotism, since this would be the case "if the participation of the family members were of some benefit to them, but I believe that the people will agree with us that being in the PMT does not bring benefits but problems."

"If it is nepotism that my son Pablo is occupying one of the eight positions on the delegation committee of Cuauhtemoc, how would we characterize the nepotism of Lazaro Gonzalez, when his children and relatives quit along with him, 14 in all," he asked himself. With Vallejo's other great supporter, Martin Arias from Jalisco, his wife, children and other relatives also quit. "What should that be called?" he asked.

On Vallejo's prediction in regard to the destiny of the PMT, he replied: "The PMT seems to have nine lives. Many times they have predicted our death in the near future. And we continue to grow. In the report that I will present to the national assembly, I report that to date I have been able to ascertain that the PMT now has 36,602 members, that it has more than doubled in size since Vallejo's last report in the second assembly in 1980, and that we still have more than 20,000 membership forms to process, because the preparation of the assembly was made difficult by Vallejo's quarreling."

"I can conservatively estimate," he said, "that in an effort by myself and 50 helpers since my appointment, more than 50,000 citizens have approached the PMT to affiliate themselves."

"Now all that remains is for us to wish the PSUM and Vallejo much happiness in their relations," he stated in closing.

9746

CSO: 3248/1294

NEW REGULATION SIGNIFIES AUTO INDUSTRY RESTRUCTURING

Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 14 Sep 83 pp 1, 8

[Article by Angelica Quezada]

[Text] Automobile models and production lines will be reduced to a sixth of the present models and lines; importation of cars into border areas and duty-free zones will be suspended; and 8-cylinder cars will no longer be assembled here beginning next year. These measures are being taken because existing specific needs for the collective transportation of both passengers and goods remain unsatisfied, while the automotive industry is producing superfluous accessories and units that do not correspond to the country's gasoline consumption, size, price and foreign exchange requirements.

Secretary of Commerce and Industrial Development Hector Hernandez Cervantes made the above arguments yesterday in announcing the application of the Program for Rationalization of the Automobile Industry, which proposes these objectives, among others, as part of a reorientation of the productive structure in the direction of prices that are internationally competitive and fair to the Mexican consumer.

The provisions of this decree will be published in the federal government's "Official Bulletin" within the next few days and will enter into effect beginning in 1984.

With the publication of the decree, a substantial change will be made in the traditional development policy applied over the last 20 years, since, among other things, the subsidies granted by the state for the importation of materials and components will be eliminated. During the last decade, these represented, on the average, about 40 percent of the financial benefits granted by the government during the period for the development of economic activities considered to have priority and amounted to about 30 billion pesos, according to the figures of the Department of Programming and Budget and the then existing Department of the Patrimony and Industrial Development.

Nevertheless, the new agreement, like the 1962 one, emphasizes increased local content, foreign exchange compensation and attainment of a positive trade balance for the sector. Now, beginning this year, enterprises making the final product and autoparts manufacturers will have access to foreign exchange only

to the extent that it is capable of generating business and thus putting an end to the automobile industry's chronic and growing deficit.

Data provided during the secretary of commerce and industrial development's press conference by Miguel Rivera, director of the metallurgical and mechanical industry and capital goods office, confirmed these facts as follows:

In 1977, 27.7 percent of the country's trade balance deficit was generated by the automobile sector.

In 1980, according to department of programming and budget figures, the sector accounted for 52.3 percent of the foreign trade deficit.

In 1981, the automobile industry's part of the total trade deficit rose to 57.7 percent.

And in 1982, even though the country's overall trade balance was favorable, the automobile industry registered a deficit of 730 million dollars.

Hernandez Cervantes noted that, while the external deficit of this manufacturing sector tended to decline in 1982 as internal demand for its products increased, foreign exchange problems continued to arise. In addition, Mauricio de Maria y Campos, undersecretary for industrial development, said that, as a result of economic readjustment, 30,000 workers had been dismissed; nevertheless, thanks to increased exports and the substitution of locally produced components for imported ones, 10,000 of them had returned to work.

The secretary of commerce and industrial development stressed that the document setting forth changes in automotive sector policy is neither a short-term panacea nor implicit recognition of errors in the policy applied hitherto. He said that improvements are being made and, furthermore, gave assurances that, taking into account the fact that the assembly enterprises are 100 percent dependent on foreign capital, a policy of foreign investment will be applied pragmatically in this sector.

Among the measures adopted to correct problems that have existed from the beginning, as well as others that have arisen over the years, the following were announced:

During the next 4 years, production lines will be reduced to three and models to no more than seven for each enterprise (in 1981, there were 19 of the former and 47 of the latter); the industry's dependence on foreign sources, high prices and poor quality are attributed to the excessive number of models. This will be done with the objectives of producing in this country, for the first time, vehicles that can be sold at internationally competitive prices, thus facilitating the sector's participation in international trade, and of providing the Mexican consumer with cars at prices similar to those of foreign ones, whereas now cars made here cost up to 100 percent more than those made abroad.

The installation of 8-cylinder motors in cars and commercial vehicles known as "pick-ups" will be prohibited, beginning in November 1984 and November 1985, respectively.

The advances made toward greater local content in the vehicles will be consolidated; local content in cars will be increased to a minimum of 10 percent (components and parts) and, by 1987, to 60 percent; in trucks and buses, it will be 20 percent and, by 1987, 80 and 90 percent, respectively.

Enterprises manufacturing the final product will be obliged to allocate at least 20 percent of their total production to the manufacture of "austere" models in 1984, a proportion that should increase to 25 percent in 1985, for the Mexican consumer's benefit. Moreover, the department of commerce will determine which parts are to be considered as luxury items and therefore to be made locally.

Besides ratifying the existence of the Interdepartmental Committee for the Automotive Industry, whose functions are of a technical nature, the decree creates a consultative committee for the automotive sector with the objective of ensuring coordinated planning with respect to the needs and commitments of the plants making the finished product, autoparts manufacturers and those providing raw materials that promote the balanced development of the sector.

The secretary of commerce and industrial development stressed that the anticipated demand for cars for the rest of the decade does not justify keeping the excessive number of models and production lines now in existence. A demand of approximately 300,000 production units is envisaged for 1987, that is, about 50,000 for each automotive enterprise, in order to achieve production levels on an international scale, since, while in Europe, the United States and Japan, an average of 100-150 thousand vehicles per production line are made, in Mexico this year fewer than 7,000 will be produced (in 1981, the figure was 13,000).

Finally, the official said that, as a result of the transformation in the structure of the industry, the country should have an automotive sector capable of generating foreign exchange sufficient to meet its own needs, competing on the international market with respect to prices, improving the quality of its product and benefitting the Mexican consumer.

12336

CSO: 3248/15

PETROLEUM UNION LEADER TORRES PANCARDO DIES IN AUTO CRASH

Driver Shot Before Collision

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 10 Sep 83 pp 1-A, 18-A, 34-A

[Article by Felipe Marquez A.]

[Text] Poza Rica, Veracruz, 9 September--Oscar Torres Pancardo, leader of Section 30 of the STPRM [Trade Union of Petroleum Workers of the Mexican Republic] died early this morning along with three other persons when the vehicle in which they were riding collided with a trailer and was then hit by a truck. The accident occurred at 11 pm Thursday at kilometer 167 of the highway Pachuca-Poza Rica.

The van, with license plates 782-SRY and owned by the petroleum leader and mayor of this locality, was being driven by Noe Cruz, who showed a gunshot wound in his right temple. Apparently, the driver was shot before the collision.

Torres Pancardo was accompanied by his secretary Maria Vela Pedrosa and Laura Nava, both of whom died at the site of the mishap. This was not the case for Oscar Torres and his driver, who were still alive when they arrived at the PEMEX hospital in this locality.

Marco Antonio Figueroa Jimenez, chief of the department of criminology, said that the autopsy performed on the body of Noe Cruz shows that the projectile that they fired at him passed through his cranium from the right to the left.

Gilberto Santos Gonzalez, secretary of the agency of the Public Ministry, reported that the incident occurred opposite the village of Villa Lazaro; the vehicle in which the mayor was traveling was torn apart after first colliding with a trailer and then being hit by a truck, he said.

As of now, the Federal Highway Police has not presented its findings on the accident.

A vigil was held over the corpse of Torres Pancardo in his home at 112 Leona Vicario in the colony of Santa Emilia, where Salvador Barragan Camacho, national STPRM leader was present, along with Joaquin Hernandez Galicia,

Governor Agustin Acosta Lagunes and the state attorney general, Pericles Namorado Urrutia.

The body was taken to the municipal palace, where a municipal council meeting was held. From there it was moved to the offices of Section 30 of the STPRM.

Burial will be tomorrow at 10 am in the municipal mausoleum of this locality. A vigil over the remains of Laura Nava and Noe Cruz is also being held there, while the remains of Maria Vela were taken to Huauchinango, Puebla.

It was 5 years ago that the petroleum leader was wounded during the shooting in which Heriberto Kehoe Vincent, the then secretary general of the STPRM, was killed.

Marta Torres, daughter of Oscar Torres Pancardo, arrived tonight from San Antonio, Texas, aboard Flight 721 of Mexicana de Aviacion. On being asked by reporters, she said that she was not certain that her father died accidentally. She was met at the airport by Bruno Carrillo, who claimed to be a member of the Secretariat of Social Foresight of the petroleum union. When the reporters insisted in their questions about the death of Torres Pancardo in an annoying and energetic manner, Bruno Carrillo said: "Oscar Torres was not assassinated." Immediately, the young woman was almost lifted up by two other persons who helped her into a blue automobile with license plates 472-AGE.

Before closing the car door, Marta said that she could not say anything more because the plane was leaving. She apparently left for the city of Poza Rica by private flight.

In addition, it is reported that Torres Pancardo's driver has a bullet wound behind the right ear with a slight downward angle. The caliber of the bullet is 9 millimeters.

Death Seen Favoring Dissidents

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 10 Sep 83 pp 1-A, 17-A

[Article by Mario Ruiz Redondo]

[Excerpt] Minatitlan, Veracruz, 9 September--With the appearance here of the Union Committee for Moral Renovation, the division among the STPRM leadership becomes more obvious.

The death of Oscar Rorres Pancardo, leader of Section 30 political chief of the central zone, considered a loyal man close to Salvador Aragan Camacho and Joaquin Hernandez Galicia, favors the advance of active and strong dissidence in the central and southern regions of the petroleum fiefdom.

Here, among the union opposition to the current national executive committee of the trade union, it was asserted today that "power is slipping from the hands" of the leadership group.

The current leader of the local section (Section 10), David Ramirez Cruz, and Marcos Lopez Mora in Poza Rica--Section 30--are considered the most important dissidents of the union movement in PEMEX, who are fighting to end the antidemocratic "dictatorship" in the national union.

In view of the clear crumbling away of the power of petroleum in this region, the lower-level leaders and contractors--the latter are often the "juniors"--have begun to sell property and anything that might reveal wrongly acquired wealth. The case of Hector Garcia Hernandez, known as "El Trampas," the former director of education and culture of the National Executive Committee of STPRM, has had quite an influence on the thinking of these leaders.

"Modest" houses worth up to 16 million pesos, for example, are knocked down in this city to half of their value. In the newspapers, ads of this type have multiplied. Construction materials imported from Europe and part of the houses are included as inducements.

9746

CSO: 3248/1294

BRIEFS

PSUM INCORPORATES PMT DISSIDENTS--Demetrio Vallejo and 800 other former members of the PMT [Mexican Workers Party] yesterday officially joined the PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico] committee for Mexico City. Incorporation of the former railway workers leader, fighter in labor causes and experienced party militant aroused enthusiasm in the PSUM regional offices, it was said, because, as the official statement points out, it will enrich the PSUM, especially in the areas of labor and agricultural settlements. Furthermore, PSUM representation will be strengthened in the delegations from Miguel Hidalgo, Cuauhtemoc, Gustavo A. Madero and Tlapan. The mass enrollment, following upon the signature of a joint declaration by Vallejo and Valentin Campa a few days ago, is a proof, it is said, of the PSUM's unitary spirit. [Text] [Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 14 Sep 83 p 5] 12336

DROUGHT AFFECTING CHIHUAHUA AGRICULTURE--According to Ernesto Torres Garcia, head of this state's small properties office, the prolonged drought affected 30 percent of Chihuahua's cultivated area this year. He added that the losses have not yet been quantified and that the National Agriculture and Livestock Insurance Corporation will be asked to compensate for damages sustained as soon as possible, in order that farmers may have sufficient resources to enable them to plant again. He said that even the Mennonite plantations in the municipality of Cuauhtemoc had been damaged by the scarcity of water. The damage would have been greater, he said, if the rainy season had not begun early in August. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 12 Sep 83 p 11-D] 12336

VISIT BY FRENCH DEPUTIES--French deputies Claude Michel, Albert Brochard, Francois Patriat, Andre Soury, Josep Vidal and Roland Buillaule, members of the French parliamentary committee for production and interchange, arrived in this capital yesterday. This committee, which has official responsibility for industry, agriculture, trade and planning matters, has come here to acquire a better knowledge of how Mexico is organized to deal with these matters and to analyze the possibilities for Franco-Mexican interchanges and cooperation. The French Embassy has stated that the visitors will be received by Secretary of Commerce Hector Hernandez Cervantes, Secretary of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources Horacio Aguilar and Secretary of Programming and Budget Carlos Salinas de Gortari, as well as by the members of the chamber of deputies composing the committees on these questions. It was also announced that they would visit French and Franco-Mexican enterprises such as Renault and the Metro system installations and work projects. Also, they will exchange opinions with business-

men from the Franco-Mexican Chamber of Commerce and CEMAI, meet with the Pemex (Mexican Petroleum) authorities and visit work projects in the Campeche zone. The visitors were welcomed at the International Airport by French Ambassador to Mexico Bernard Brochet and the minister-counselor of the said diplomatic mission, Henri Tran Van Kha. [Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 12 Sep 83 p 5-A] 12336

CSO: 3248/15

WEEKLY ON SHINING PATH LEADERSHIP, PHILOSOPHY

Santiago COSAS in Spanish 25 Aug 83 pp 36-37

[Article by Jose Rodriguez Elizondo]

[Text] A sinister mixture of mysticism, terrorism and Indian roots has converted the Peruvian guerrilla movement into a factor of political panic. The democratic government of Fernando Belaunde responded belatedly to it, according to the opposition.

When the terrorists of Sendero Luminoso [SL, or Shining Path] attacked the local center of Accion Popular [AP, or Popular Action], President Fernando Belaunde Terry abandoned circumlocutions and declared open warfare against the organization. The noted political columnist of the daily EXPRESO, Manuel D'Ornellas, known as "the small populist"--sympathizer of the government party--applauded the end of euphemisms or "elliptical allusions to subversive violence." As he wrote, the head of state had at last called a spade a spade.

A week earlier Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez, former "de facto" head of state who now seeks to be Peru's constitutional president, had gone farther. In an interview with the periodical OIGA he said that "this is a civil war." And the political world, practically unanimously, had to recognize that people had been unable to assign to Shining Path members the significance that they had on the basis of their own intentions outlined in texts and pamphlets.

The fact is that, in keeping with a singular variable of their modesty, the Peruvians were unable to accept that in Ayacucho, the mysterious heart of the Peruvian hinterland, there had begun to mature, explosively, one of the most violent and important terrorist organizations of the entire world.

There are basically three factors which have made Shining Path a negatively exemplary and unique organization of its kind:

1. Its top leader, Abimael Guzman, must be the most studious of the extremists who have surfaced, at least in Latin America. A kind of Bakhtin from Arequipa, he qualified as a philosophy professor on the basis of his lengthy thesis of some 200 pages. In it Guzman surveyed the history of Western thought since the pre-Socratic philosophers and concluded that revolutionary truth has begun to

emerge only since Hegel's time. A work conceived to justify personal proposals which "complement" Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, the thesis additionally revealed an impeccable use of language.

2. The organization and its leader do not admit to any involvement or sympathies with any "real" socialism. They rule out with equanimity Soviets, Cubans, Chinese (their major "bete noire" being Deng Xiao Ping), and even the arch-orthodox Albanians. By the same token, Abimael Guzman is nothing less to his apostles than "the fourth luminary in world revolution." The other three are Marx, Lenin and Mao.

3. Shining Path has not surfaced in order to take advantage of a "weak democracy" as some claim. The existence of Belaunde's democratic regime is merely an accident in the path of Guzman who conceived his trailblazing class war in 1970. At that time it was the military who were in office and their leader was the Leftist Gen Juan Velasco Alvarado. Even more, the time of their "forces' buildup" occurred essentially between 1975 and 1980 when it is specifically Gen Morales Bermudez who was in power.

Thus, this organization with two names (Shining Path signs its manifestos as the Communist Party of Peru without any concern for the intellectual appropriateness of designations, logos and symbols) has a comparatively exceptional leader who has known how to inculcate extraordinary amounts of fanaticism into his followers, who has established a mystical-military hierarchy, and drawn up a short-term, medium-term, and long-term plan--from the indoctrination stage to that of SL's total assumption of power--without worrying whether such power would be in the hands of "civilian bourgeois," "military bourgeois," or Leftists afflicted with "parliamentary imbecility."

This is more than could have been imagined by a Carlos Marchela planning or organizing in Brazil or by any of the leaders of the various people's revolutionary or national liberation armies who, with some publicity but little preparation, have periodically made their appearance in Latin America.

Power Alone

Little is known about Guzman since he ascended the mountains of Ayacucho Department. But the hierarchy that he has been able to build up speaks sufficiently about his own person. Since it is so perfect, there is no possibility whatever of figuring out the role of his aides or intermediate-level commanders. While the slogan of Shining Path is "except for power everything is illusion," its organizational chart appears to indicate that, except for "Gonzalo," Guzman's "nom de guerre," all the others are only fantasy.

A little while back the review CARETAS suggested, even though in a masked way, that Shining Path had a deputy leader called Julio Cesar Mezzich and that this should not be surprising given the supposed ill-health of Gonzalo (there are some who assert that he may be dead). Mezzich, a former student of the aristocratic La Inmaculada school, a classmate of the present minister of industry, Ivan Rivera, is an enigmatic revolutionary who, like Guzman, covered his way of the cross of dissidence inside the Peruvian Marxist Left. Cesar Mezzich's

heightened level of awareness prompted him to the point of marrying a girl from the mountain region, a member of an Ayacucho community, in order to become part of the class which he hoped to instill with revolutionary fervor. The hypothesis of his deputy leadership or of his high standing as Guzman's officer was and is plausible, but it did not rate any comment, direct or indirect, by Shining Path. However, suggestively, anonymous death threats reached the steps of the review's editorial offices and were repeated throughout that week.

As for those Shining Path members who were captured, they represent a surprising spectacle. The men on the penal islet of El Fronton and the women in a Lima jail became extremely fanatical upon their incarceration. Television has shown incredible scenes depicting these Shining Path prisoners as masters of their situation in confinement. They have hung up their flags, symbols and icons everywhere; they perform doctrinaire gymnastics every day; teachers of the Quechua language give instruction to those among their comrades who are unfamiliar with Quechua; and as soon as they see a camera in someone's hand they pose defiantly, raising their fists and singing their battle hymns.

Their dialogue is nonexistent. For them there is no exchange of ideas because only their viewpoints are valid. Additionally, it would be impossible for them to accept the concept of shared or alternating power. However, their ranks include university students and even faculty from the University of Ayacucho in Huamanga. This fact itself makes their brand of violence more terrifying-- violence which unites the citizens' capability of inventiveness with ancestral forms of highland justice. Indeed, Shining Path does a number of things which evidences a symbiosis between the sophistication of Gonzalo and the violent traditions of the Andean region, expressed for example in the work of Ciro Algeria or Manuel Scorza. That is where one reads about those corpses with crushed thigh bones so that their souls may not walk about seeking vengeance, or about heads with their eyes gouged so that even if the souls should wander about they would not be able to see. And that is where one finds those corpses buried face down so that, following their punishment, they may only become part of the nurturing earth without being able to emerge from the Pachamama.

Democracy in Danger

While the methods and organization of SL are tragically novel, their effects in the society are classical: Getting used to fear or the routine of violence; the loss of evidence when the government investigates or sanctions; catalyzing action which increases subversive or merely delinquent activities; and the bringing into play of the democratic system itself which is beginning to be perceived at a critical juncture of destabilization. The method of this madness leads to unloading all the blame on the sacrificial lamb of government beyond its real transgressions and without considering its technical possibility of action. This is an old and dangerous game whose symptoms have already been in evidence over and over again.

Such is the case, for instance, with Peru's chief public prosecutor, Dr Miguel Caverio Egusquiza, who, undoubtedly in good faith, has already fallen into the trap. Impressed by the assassination of one of his assistant prosecutors in

Ayacucho, the chief prosecutor offered to hold a dialogue with Shining Path, on his own initiative and at his own risk. Comrade Gonzalo, in keeping with his style, refused to consider the offer. Subsequent actions and instructions, additionally, made it clear that the SL seeks war and that it is not trying to defend it with dialogue. It is a fact that the spontaneous move of the prosecutor deeply displeased the government and that its effectiveness was considered unlikely by the church itself. But in any case, the very offer by Cervera was already a political triumph for Shining Path, which found itself become a legitimate interlocutor for a high figure of the establishment.

Path of Pol Pot

For many Peruvians the above does not mean that the government has acted with the wisdom called for by such a dramatic event. It is generally held that the Peruvian president was late in recognizing the reality of the situation. It is recalled that Belaunde Terry had acted analogously in 1965 when he did not wish to recognize that guerrillas were guerrillas. He preferred to call them "little thieves." On this occasion, great pains were taken to view the actions of SL as simple crimes or, at the most, as subversive acts induced by an abstract stranger who never became concrete. Thus, by the time the shock of dynamite, genocide and siege in Lima forced Belaunde's hand, the members of Shining Path had gained strategically precious time.

As for the Peruvian armed forces, they seem to understand fully the tremendous dimension of the challenge. To begin with, they do not claim that they can wipe out terrorism from one day to the next or pretend to be able to repeat their performance of 1965 against the guerrillas. At that time the Peruvian military liquidated brilliantly and with greater effectiveness than their Latin American colleagues the Guevara-type points of resistance led by Luis de la Puente Uceda, Guillermo Lobaton and Hector Bejar. And the Peruvian military seized power only 3 years later, strengthened by its operations.

Judging by their declarations, casualties and warnings, it is deduced that the Peruvian armed forces are very much aware of what is involved now and furthermore that they are cognizant of the risk of adopting an Argentine-type strategy, that is, of becoming involved in an internal and dirty war that would impact on their prestige, that would deeply divide the Peruvians, and which in the last analysis would not help their professional capabilities related to their primary functions.

It is clear that, given the seriousness of the situation--at this point the armed forces hold the political and military power in Ayacucho--the balance of forces is becoming constantly more critical and heady comments easier.

Furthermore, there are other factors which affect the behavior of the government and the military. Among them, the existence of various law-enforcing agencies which compete among themselves without preparation to act as "front-line" units, contentiously, lacking combative morale and, seemingly, susceptible to infiltration. One need also consider the existence of a weak and obsolete judicial system for these purposes.

And neither the rapid strikes of the terrorists nor their safe location represent security [for the law-enforcing agencies]. And directly related is a prison infrastructure which serves only to strengthen Shining Path members. All this is happening in the context of a serious economic recession of a strictly Latin American type.

As for the system of political parties, the strong and renovated alliance of the government party with the Popular Christian Party [PPC] protects the system against internal whims and parliamentary surprises. The APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance], the principal and powerful opposition party, knows on its part that its chances of reaching power depend on terrorism being (thoroughly) wiped out. As for the Marxist Left, a sizable sector has condemned the SL, evidencing the existence of a "democratic vacuum." Another sector, unfortunately, has been unable to avoid ambiguity. Driven between the fear of seeing itself outflanked by Shining Path on the Left and by its doctrinaire theses that would prevent it from giving a nod to a "bourgeois" government, it is directed to merely denouncing the excesses of the police in Ayacucho while it handles the terrorists with respect. "erring comrades" is the way that more than one leader has characterized politely this group on describing the violent activists of the "fourth luminary" of Gonzalo.

This is how the intractable activists of Shining Path will flourish in the historic and political weaknesses of their country. In their attacks they have recalled--and rightly so--the dreadful methods used by Pol Pot and his followers in millenary Kampuchea. Shining Path is now hitting Lima where anonymity and skillful attacks are facilitated by the social turmoil and the Lima residents' lack of preparedness for this type of action. The damage caused is already plentiful, but this does not obviate the fact that a minority group is involved. The Peruvian people, who value their democracy, will have to reinforce it in adversity because its fall would represent a tremendous success for Abimael Guzman.

2662

CSO: 3348/1

DEVELOPMENTS INVOLVING TOBAGO; NEW STATUS RECOGNIZED

CMA Issue

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 8 Sep 83 p 8

[Text]

GOVERNMENT'S handing over of the Central Marketing Agency in the Island to the Tobago House of Assembly has run into a hitch -- a financial one. The Assembly has no money to pay staff nor to buy and sell farmers' produce.

"Now they have decided to hand over to the Assembly, the Central Government has provided no money for us to operate the agency," said Dr Jeff Davidson, Deputy Chairman of the Assembly and Secretary for Agriculture.

As a result the handing over ceremony which should have taken place on Monday has had to be postponed, and the Assembly's Director of Finance has been assigned to carry out a survey of the staff and financial requirements for an efficient operation.

Mr Anthony James, the Central Marketing Agency's General Manager, came to Tobago on Monday and held discussions with a team from the Assembly which included Dr Davidson and Mr Regis Caruth, Secretary for Marketing.

"The talks were cordial," said Dr Davidson after the meeting. "The Financial Director has been given until September 15 to report and when the money has been provided a new date will be

set for the official takeover," he said.

The handover to the Assembly was first announced by Prime Minister George Chambers in his Independence Day broadcast to the nation. It brought to an end three years of struggle by the Assembly for the right to operate the Marketing Agency in the Island, as prescribed in the Tobago House of Assembly Act. "But even the handing over is marked by a comedy of errors," observed Dr Davidson.

"The C.M.A.", he explained, "had been instructed to work towards a September 1st handing over deadline, but we at the Assembly were not informed of this", he said.

"We cannot take over because we have no money to operate," he declared. "We do not even have the staff to do the accounting functions which the CMA in Trinidad has been doing for the CMA in Tobago," he said.

"Until these matters are worked out the CMA will continue to carry out marketing functions in Tobago," said Dr Davidson. "They re-started buying farmers' pigs from last week Friday," he said.

"It's been a long battle for our marketing rights in Tobago," he said, "but the end is in sight and we have won," he declared.

Boost for Standing in Sports

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 14 Sep 83 p 56

[Article by George Baptiste]

[Excerpt]

INTERNATIONAL. soccer matches could well be staged in sister island Tobago, before the end of this year.

This follows agreement reached between the Trinidad and Tobago Football Association and the Tobago Football League, during a two-hour meeting at Crown Reef Hotel yesterday.

The meeting was chaired by A.N.R. Robinson, chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly (THA), with the T&TFA being represented by second-vice president Harold Taylor, secretary Austin "Jack" Warner and secretary (administration) Ivan Carter. The TFL representatives were Eric Hovell, chairman, Bertil Beard, secretary and Carl Alleyne.

Agreement was reached at

last, to accept the TFL as an affiliate of the T&TFA, under its present structure, according to information received from our Tobago correspondent.

And as a result, Taylor has agreed to allow two TFL teams to participate in this year's FA Trophy competition from the semi-final stage. Semi-final games are to be played at the National Stadium.

Taylor also agreed to give permission to the TFL to stage international games at Shew Park.

He further consented to Tobago forming their own national squad, to play a three-match series against Trinidad's - two in Trinidad and one in Tobago - before final selection of national squads to play in World Cup, Olympic Games and Caribbean Football Union tournaments are picked.

New Highway

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 7 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

SCARBOROUGH:

CONSTRUCTION of the Claude Noel Highway in Tobago has already cost taxpayers \$30 million. Works and Maintenance Minister, Mr. Hugh Francis said yesterday as he joined Tobago's House of Assembly Chairman, Mr. A.N.R. Robinson, in a ceremony to open the .6 kilometre section of the highway from North Side Road to Calder Hall.

He also said that the highway was the major spine of the Tobago road system which, when completed together with the connecting road, will cost government something in the region of \$65 million.

Before the joint ribbon-cutting ceremony, Assemblyman Hochoy Charles,

chairman of the proceedings, called on Rev. Father Ken Forester to invoke God's blessing on the highway, and also its users - a new factor which, according to Mr. Robinson, will be adopted at similar functions in future.

Mr. Robinson said that apart from opening new vistas in Tobago, the Claude Noel Highway anchored a new and developing network of roads which would certainly make Tobago a much better place to live in.

He said that with new facilities there might be new dangers necessitating the exercising of new caution which he would like to ask the entire population of Tobago and visitors to Tobago as well to take note of.

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 9 Sep 83 p 6

[Editorial]

[Text]

THE CREATION of a Tobago House of Assembly in 1980 was largely a result of the political agitation by Democratic Action Congress (DAC) political leader ANR Robinson and his loyal supporters in Tobago. It was perceived then as an institution that would better focus on the problems of Tobagonians—and indeed it has been doing precisely that, no doubt to the central Government's embarrassment.

Take the case of the Crown Point airport runway which, since 1978, was considered in a bad enough state to require 'urgent' attention from the then Prime Minister. In the five years since, the situation at Crown Point Airport has become, if anything, more urgent since not very much has in fact been done about resurfacing and strengthening the runway.

It is incredible that since the Government finally awarded a large contract in 1981 for the extension and repair of both Piarco and Crown Point airports, the joint venture enterprise of Alves of Trinidad and MBL of Canada has taken some two years to get down to the crucial task of repairing the Crown Point runway. And according to the Tobago House of Assembly, only recently it has had requests from the contrac-

tors to make use of the Assembly's equipment to begin work on the runway, and this only after a high-level meeting between Prime Minister George Chamberlain and Mr Robinson in his capacity as Assembly Chairman.

How the responsible agency in Trinidad, prior to the creation of the Tobago Assembly, could simply ignore the very real dangers posed by the fact that landing at or taking off from Crown Point, especially for BWIA's DC-9 aircraft was considered dangerous, both by technical experts and by pilots themselves, who have voiced their misgivings about the safety of the runway, is beyond belief. Though of course there are quite a few examples of the government's negligence in any number of repair or maintenance projects in Trinidad.

What the Tobago House of Assembly seems determined to demonstrate, however, is that it is going to be much more alert and aggressive about the problems that Tobagonians face, which is precisely what the Assembly was created for. Indeed, we should hardly be surprised at the conflicts that have emerged between the Assembly and the central Government, given the Government's record of

negligence or its sense of long-term 'urgency'.

Tobagonians, clearly, are not going to be content with mere promises or platitudinous ponderosities that amount to little more than politicking. The Assembly is determined to do the job it was set up to do, much in the same way as there is a new vitality in the operations of Local Government bodies in Trinidad since the opposition Alliance, or party of parties, made headway in the August 8 Local Government poll.

Take the case, for example, of the Belle Garden Great House which the central Government has been trying for some time to take over, albeit for the purpose of converting the building into quarters for the District Medical Officer of the area.

The Assembly has been resisting this from the start because it has its own plans to use the Great House for a rural development workshop and training centre, which, the Assembly says, is what the people of Belle Garden

want. The Assembly has also gone on record as saying the present quarters used by the District Medical Officer is adequate, and they have offered to inspect the existing quarters to have this verified.

The central Government may of course argue that the building comes under its jurisdiction and that provision of quarters for a District Medical Officer is more important, in the Government's priorities, than anything else the Assembly may have in mind. The Assembly is standing firm. And we can well expect more of this in the immediate future.

Tobagonians are obviously determined to press the central Government for the things they think are in their best interests, and we dare say if other local Government agencies adopted the same attitude, the people of both Trinidad and Tobago stand to gain a lot. More attention to their local problems for a start, as opposed to the old regime of 'urgent' promises that are subsequently ignored.

POLITICAL PARTIES ACTIVE IN SHORING UP SUPPORT

PNM Rules Study

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 8 Sep 83 p 16

[Text]

A TEN-MEMBER committee of the ruling PNM appointed to examine the rules, function and perspective of the party, has been holding discussions with party member throughout the country.

The committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Overand Padmore, Minister of Education was appointed in March this year by the General Council when it met in Point Fortin.

The committee reportedly met several times and agreed to hold a series of consultations with party membership to get their views.

On June 30, the discussions was held in the Arouca and Arima constituencies.

Last week, the committee met the three Diego Martin Constituencies at Balisier House. On Saturday they met the Women's League representatives.

On Monday night discussions were

held at Tunapuna with the Tunapuna, St. Augustine and St. Joseph constituencies.

Today the committee will meet the three Port-of-Spain constituencies and will travel to Tobago for talks with the party members in the two Tobago constituencies this weekend. On Sunday, talks will be held with the Youth League.

WELL ATTENDED

A party official said that the meetings were well attended.

During the next two weeks, the committee will meet in the remaining constituencies.

After all the consultations, the committee will resume deliberations to prepare a report in time for the party's annual convention later this year.

PNM Activity in Tobago

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 13 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

THE RULING People's National Movement is looking at proposals put forward by party members in Tobago for strengthening the party organisation in the sister isle.

Over the weekend Rep. Overand Padmore, chairman of a PNM appointed committee which is looking at the role, function and perspectives of the PNM headed a team visiting the island for discussion.

The committee was appointed by the party in March this year and has been meeting party members in constituencies throughout the country.

Visiting Tobago with Mr. Padmore were Rep. Cuthbert Joseph, Minister of Local Government and Community Development, and Senator Basil Ince, Minister of Ex-

ternal Affairs.

Towards the strengthening of the party in Tobago the party's general secretary, Mr. Alvin Quamina, spent the last two weeks meeting party groups and executive members discussing party structure and operations.

Frequent Visits

During discussions party members called for more frequent visits by Government Ministers, and Mr. Padmore himself said that he intended to go to Tobago in the next few weeks to visit schools and other areas related to the Ministry of Education.

PNM councillors of the Tobago House of Assembly took part in the discussions with the committee.

Complaints were also aired about employment of persons in the operations of the Tobago House of Assembly.

Opposition Drive in Villages

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 15 Sep 83 p 5

[Text]

THE NATIONAL Alliance and the Organization for National Reconstruction (ONR) are to form village committees throughout the country in order to work closely with the people in the villages. So said Sankar "Coach" Rampersad yesterday, while reporting on a tour he had made in the Kandahar area. Rampersad is an Alliance member of the Opposition-controlled St George East County Council.

"The idea is," said Rampersad, "that people on the village committees will report the needs of the villages to the Local Government representatives, who will then report to the County Councils." Members of the committees for Kandahar and Cane Farm, for which areas Rampersad is the Local Government representative, will be elected next week.

"I recently made a tour of the Kandahar area with 30 villagers," Rampersad said. "Virtually nothing has been done there for 25 years. The people are very frustrated, and I am convinced they had no representation during that time. Among the problems they face are poor roads, poor drainage, no street signs, a bad electricity supply, and hardly any piped water."

Rampersad pointed out that he had managed to get the grass cut on recreation grounds in the area, and that garbage collection in the area had improved. He said village council meetings were only attended by five or six people, but that a meeting he held on Tuesday was attended by about 50 people.

"I believe we can say we have done more in a few weeks than what was done in the last 25 years," he said.

CS0: 3298/051

UNIONS ROW WITH GOVERNMENT, COMPANIES OVER POLICIES

T&TEC Issue

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 10 Sep 83 p 3

[Text]

THE Oilfields Workers Trade Union yesterday warned it was intent on destroying a "plot" to "weaken and destroy the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission so that the utility will be returned to private hands."

OWTU President-General George Weekes also spoke about "corrupt persons within and without the Commission working towards awarding more and more contractors, the aim being among other things of ensuring the total collapse of the industry, in order that T&TEC could return to private enterprise."

Weekes' comments were contained in a strongly worded five-page letter dispatched to T&TEC General Manager Leo Martin yesterday...

The letter was written to protest a T&TEC Board's decision refusing to extend the leave of absence for OWTU executive officer Horace Noray to continue full-time union work on secondment.

The Board also rejected the OWTU's request for Noray to handle disputes between T&TEC and the union.

Weekes said the OWTU general council which met on the matter had condemned the T&TEC Board's decision "banning H. Noray from handling disputes or any other mat-

ters and feels this illegal and vindictive act is meant to provoke the workers, embarrass the union, more so as the said act constitutes a flagrant violation of provisions of the industrial agreement."

Making several references to the "plot," Weekes said: "Those decisions are not, in fact, anti-OWTU decisions, but additionally are part of a grand conspiracy and a diabolical plot which continues to work against the national interest."

IDENTIFIED

Pointing out that the T&TEC management had identified that the relationship between both parties was at a "low ebb," the OWTU accused T&TEC of "only paying lip service to the desirability of attaining a high level of industrial relations."

Said Weekes: "It confirms that your Commission prefers to have a strained relationship with the union, with the ultimate aim of getting rid of the OWTU at T&TEC and we are certain that under the present leadership, no effort will be spared to achieve that objective."

He said the OWTU wanted to warn the "enemies of the people" that it would not sit idly and allow the "people's utility"

to be destroyed. "The perpetrators of such a plot will continue to be exposed, denounced, condemned and made to pay for their sins of omission to the people of Trinidad," he said.

The OWTU general council, according to Weekes, called on T&TEC C's Board to "put an immediate halt to the victimisation of Noray" and "to initiate and develop with the assistance of the OWTU, and your employees, good industrial relations practices for the future benefit of the Commission, the workers and the nation."

He said if the Commission failed to carry out the general council's request, the union would join with the people in calling on the T&TEC management to resign and "make way for patriotic sons and daughters of our country to build a health industrial relations environment as was done by the OWTU in other industries."

NECESSARY

"This will then be necessary, if an efficient electricity supply is to be generated, transmitted and distributed to the benefit of the people of this country and for the future industrialisation of our islands in the sun," Weekes ended.

Concern at TRINTOC

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 13 Sep 83 p 3

[Article by Harry Partap]

[Text]

WORKERS

at the Trintoc Refinery in Point Fortin will begin wearing red arm bands from today as a mark of concern over the uncertainty of the future of the refinery in government's plan to rationalise the oil industry.

The decision to protest the silence of the government on the rationalisation plan was taken at a midday meeting of workers held at the Oilfields Workers Trade Union Point Fortin area office yesterday. The meeting was addressed by OWTU leader George Weekes. The workers became concerned following a panel discussion on the oil industry on the programme TTT Report last week. In this programme panellists advocated the closure of the Point Fortin Refinery in favour of broadening the scope of the Point-a-Pierre refinery.

At yesterday's meeting, Mr Weekes said he could not see the government taking such a decision to close down the refinery at Point Fortin. He said that Point Fortin had a history of loyal support to the ruling Peoples National Movement (PNM) culminating with the "vote of confidence by the people

of Point Fortin in the PNM in the last local government elections." He pointed out that with such support, the government could not now go and close down the refinery.

Said Mr Weekes, "The government must know that if this happens then Point Fortin will remain a ghost town for every section in this borough will be affected." He said that

Dr Eric Williams had worked hard to ensure that Point Fortin survived. He noted that government bought out Shell when things were "bad for that company" and placed Dunlop in the district to stimulate employment for the people. He said that Dr Williams created a borough in Point Fortin, but that the shut-down of the refinery will reverse the fortunes of the borough.

Mr Weekes added, "The OWTU cannot see how this government will ever take such a decision to close the refinery and by extension, abandon Point Fortin." Mr Weekes urged workers to continue the struggle to defend their rights and called on workers to wear their red armbands until "something positive comes from government."

Oilfields Workers Trade Union leader George Weekes charged yesterday that Texaco Trinidad Inc. had plans to implement a further retrenchment of workers in order to reduce the work force at its Point-a-Pierre refinery.

Mr Weekes said the union had information that a new list was being prepared and that the company was "waiting for the right time to put this new plan in action." Mr Weekes said this new information was disturbing to both the workers and the union and was bound to create "uneasiness in the oil industry."

The union leader was at the time addressing workers at the Trintoc Refinery in Point Fortin during a lunch-time meeting yesterday. The meeting was held by the OWTU following a report that workers were disturbed over a TTT report which stated that the government should shut-down the Point Fortin refinery in the rationalization plan. Mr Weekes said the silence of government on the rationalization of the oil industry "was creating uneasiness in the industry."

Mr Weekes described as "criminal action" against the on" against the population, the move by Texaco to cut back throughput at the Point-a-Pierre refinery. He said that Texaco was cutting back its throughput and demanding that crude from Trintor and Trinmar be taken to Point-a-Pierre to a refinery at "considerable loss to the nation."

Mr Weekes said the "battle of the big oil companies" was now being fought over "our crude, our national resources and our strength." He said that while the big oil companies were locked in "this war of words" over whether Amoco crude should or should not be refined in Trinidad, the government was silent. Mr Weekes also commented on Prime Minister George Chambers' address to the nation on the eve of the country's 21st anniversary of independence. He said the Prime Minister's address "left in the air as to what are the three recommendations of the inter-Ministerial Team and what government was going to do about the Texaco Refinery."

He emphasized that the OWTU was committed to a "complete take-over of both Texaco and Amoco on behalf of the people of this country."

Up to press time the company had not responded to queries based on Mr Weekes's statements.

Teachers' Dissatisfaction

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 13 Sep 83 p 1

[Article by Niala Rambachan]

[Text]

CONTEMPTUOUS treatment and broken promises are all the Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers Association get from the Minister of Education.

This was the charge made yesterday by the frustrated officials of the union who met with reporters to describe plans for mobilising teachers to assert their right to a say in the administration of education.

Led by president Anthony Garcia, TTUTA officials detailed a list of grievances which the union harboured against the Ministry, saying that the Minister continues to refuse to meet with the union to discuss these matters.

Heading the list is the matter of school security and retrenchment of untrained teachers.

Up to yesterday morning the central executive of the union attempted to get a meeting with Education Minister Overland Padmore, only to be turned away. The union's officers said it was necessary that they meet with the minister because the permanent secretary and other lesser officials of the Ministry could not make the kind of decisions about which the union was concerned.

The union's officers regularly go to meetings with the ministry staff and leave with the understanding that they have convinced them of the justice of their case. Then they later see the Minister announcing contradictory decisions to the ones they

had recommended.

This has convinced them that the person they need to deal with is the Minister himself, but Mr Padmore has only seen TTUTA officials once since the union gained recognition and that was a courtesy call.

The Minister admitted on March 31 of this year that he must work in consultation with the Union, but his actions have been the opposite of this, union officers have stated.

At the time when the union was demonstrating on the recognition issue, the minister had promised to insert a "no-victimisation" clause in teachers' collective agreement, however, the Minister later said that this was a mis-

take

He has also promised additional school places in East Trinidad where the population is growing prodigiously, but again, nothing has come of this.

It is not only the Minister of Education, but the ministers of various government ministries who treat TTTA in a contemptuous fashion, the official letters to the Ministers of National Security and Culture also go unanswered.

CSO: 3298/051

ECONOMIC ISSUES HOLD ATTENTION OF VARIOUS SECTORS

Proposals From Contractors

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 7 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

THE GENERAL Contractors Association (GCA) has written the Prime Minister outlining six areas the State can boost the economic thrust in the country.

The letter to Mr. George Chambers was signed by GCA president Motilal Moonan and accompanied by a Press statement.

The GCA identified overall national plan, mining operations; roads resurfacing, bridges and landslides, school security and import licences for improvement.

The suggestions came in the wake of Mr. Chambers's Independence anniversary message which called for additional belt tightening.

While heaping praises on the Prime Minister for cancelling the \$278 million contract to Chin Hung International of South Korea to build 1,000 high density housing units, Mr. Moonan said the GCA was reliably informed that a letter of intent had already been furnished to the Ching Hung construction company.

He said that "a substantial consignment of building material is on the high seas destined for Trinidad". Mr. Moonan said it would be interesting to learn what device would be used to give effect to the Prime Minister's decision.

The GCA feels certain that Government has been convinced that the entire 1,800 apartment project, and as a matter of fact all projects related to housing the nation must be constructed by local contractors.

The events indicate that the association was right in its opposition to the award of foreign contracts, large or small and "if the advice given to the Government had been followed, this unsatisfactory state of affairs could have been avoided".

Mr. Moonan called for all Government to Government contracts to

cease and the State to instruct all its departments, statutory boards and State enterprises to seek the advice of the GCA which is the only body to speak on behalf of local contractors.

On improvements to boost the economy, the GCA said the State should circulate short, medium and long term national programmes well in advance so that contractors, architects among others could mobilise themselves to undertake such projects.

Such steps would avoid crisis decisions and implementations of projects on ad hoc basis. The contractors have adequate plant and machinery to satisfy all construction needs, he said and such goods depreciate rapidly when idle and involves foreign exchange for replacement.

The association is asking for similar treatment as granted to the oil industry for mining operators who are granted month to month leases.

It was suggested that such tenancies be regularised by granting leases up to 25 years which will ensure proper management operations of the environment and also help bring down the cost of aggregates.

Asphalt paving contractors have invested more than \$30 million in updating their plants to improve capabilities to use local asphalt.

Contract for this year have been issued but no work orders have been

made to date. The GCA noted that the matter has worsened by the continuous expansion of the Secondary Roads Company which would be organised to undertake all roads development and remedial works in direct competition with private contractors.

There are about 500 bridges and 300 landslips needing urgent repairs. "In the not to distant future, the country is likely to witness a breakdown of the transportation system with several villages cut off from the natural fabric of society", GCA

president Moonan said.

If remedial action is not taken now, he said, the problem will grow to alarming proportions which may cause others to believe that the works could only be handled by foreign contractors. Before such a stage is reached, the GCA urged the Prime Minister to implement a master plan for corrective measures.

On school security, it was suggested that DEWD workers be re-trained to provide security and janitor services.

The GCA said the negative lists had been irregular and cited the importation of completed fabricated steel buildings, one having been installed at the King George V Park some years ago.

A month ago, further licences have been granted contrary to the negative list.

Opposition on Demas Report

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 7 Sep 83 p 3

[Text]

OPPOSITION parliamentarian, Rep Winston Dookeran, has questioned whether the Demas Task Force report would inspire new confidence or simply provide an independent technical rationale for "our current state of affairs".

Mr. Dookeran, an economist and member for Chaguanas, stated in a written comment yesterday that during the 20 months of waiting for the report, the level of economic activities in the economy had continued its downward trend.

He drew attention to the drop in crude oil production from 83 million to 58 million barrels a day.

He claimed that Government's response to the predictable economic statistics was to set up the Demas Task Force to develop a multi-sectoral plan for the economy.

"While the men with ideas did their homework", he said, "the main thrust of public economic policy was to protect the revenue base of the public sector".

Outlining the situation which he described as the current economic woes, Mr. Dookeran asked how would the Demas Report deal with the situation.

HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Dookeran said: "Assuming that there has been no infusion of new ideas in the thinking underlying the recommendations of the report, the Demas Task Force will

- "argue that Trinidad and Tobago must view itself as a normal Third World country and settle for a low standard of living.

- "Highlight the insurmountable task of economic independence and economic diversification for a small economy like ours in a hostile world environment;

- "promote the virtues of a mixed economy, protection of the balance of payment situation, the use of fiscal incentives for export promotion, the need for an incomes policy and ultimate reliance on the deepening of the Caribbean Integration Movement and extra regional markets".

He said, too, that he expected the Demas Report to encourage direct foreign investment and identify the creation of a "materialistic culture" in Trinidad and Tobago as a major cause of the economic woes.

Mr. Dookeran said he expected the Demas Task Force report to advocate public sector investment programmes that make little demand on recurrent cost and foreign exchange, while at the same time have a high value added component, and in particular a high labour cost. He feels that construction and residential housing investment would be given high priority.

What he would also expect the report to advocate, he said, were fiscal measures to encourage invisible export earnings, tourism and light manufacturing.

Other measures he feels that the report would advocate are:

- Reduction in traditional agriculture and the revitalisation of agricultural processing industry, e.g., citrus and food production.

- Protection of the revenue base of the public sector by further cuts in subsidies, more and higher taxes and widening of the tax base.

He felt that recommendations would also include financial self sufficiency for public sector enterprises and utilities.

Mr. Dookeran questioned whether measures, recommended in the Demas report would work.

He asked: "Would they lead to full employment, higher incomes, general improvement in the quality of life of our citizens and a fairer distribution of economic opportunities?"

"In economic terms would the measures mean increased growth with structural resilience?"

Electricity Rate Impact on Poor

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 14 Sep 83 p 21

[Text]

THE new electricity rates currently being proposed by the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission "is nothing short of madness given its questionable track record and its proven inability to supply the working population of the Trinidad and Tobago with a ready and reliable supply of electricity."

This is the opinion of the People's Popular Movement and in a press release last night. The PPM stated that "the increase, if granted, would mean greater hardship and pressure for the vast majority of ordinary citizens who are struggling daily to make two ends meet."

"What in reality the T&TEC proposals mean," said the release, "is that if a consumer is currently paying \$32 with the acceptance of the new rates structure, that same consumer would be called upon to pay \$100 - an increase of 300 per cent. This is what the T&TEC management had dubbed 'a proper price for power, a fair price for progress. We, of course, disagree.'"

The PPM argued that while the average consumer is being asked to pay in some instances over 300 per cent more, the commercial and industrial consumers are being granted concessions and in fact are being subsidised by the vast majority of ordinary paying consumers in Trinidad and Tobago under the false pretext of the more electricity that is consumed, the less it actually costs the consumer.

"What this means is that the small man who is experiencing more hardships and difficulties as a result of the economic downturn is being asked to pay a higher price, including a new fuel charge which he previously did not pay for. Obviously,

this has to be unfair.

"This latest attack on the citizens of our Republic is part of the programme of the Government to force working people to pay for the vulgar management, scandal inefficiencies and brazen corruption which has characterised the stewardship of the incumbent regime over the last 27 years."

The PPM believed that "the country needs a new electricity service. An electricity service that can prevent meat from spoiling in our fridge, lights from going ever so often and managers who can really manage," stated the release.

"But to maintain the present unreliable electricity service and to impose a new rate of 300 per cent is really unacceptable and constitutes an insult to the intelligence of the people of Trinidad and Tobago," the release said.

"It is the firm view of the PPM that money must be set aside from the budget and from taxes collected to keep the prices of basic goods and services at a reasonable and acceptable level and that includes electricity.

"It is in this context therefore that we call upon the T&TEC management as well as the government to shelve their plans for a new increase in electricity rates.

"We in the PPM further call on the citizens and working people of our twin island Republic to vigorously oppose the proposed new rates, and to organise and mobilise themselves to resist any attempt to impose these unacceptable new rates on our already battered and broken backs."

Economic Commission

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 9 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

CABINET last night announced the names of the representatives from the business community, the labour sector, the University of the West Indies and the Tobago House of Assembly who will be members of the National Economic Planning Commission.

The selection was made in accordance with the announcement by Prime Minister George Chambers in his capacity as Minister of Finance and Planning when he established the composition in his 1982 Budget speech.

It was also agreed that persons selected for appointment to the Commission should be chosen on the basis of their own known competence and not purely as nominees of the various constituencies they will represent.

The new members of the Commission are: Leonard Williams, Banking and Finance; Arthur Lok Jack, Manufacturing

Sector; Ainsley A. Mark, Small Business Sector; George Weekes, Vernon Glean and Nathaniel Critchlow; Dr. Eric St. Cyr, UWI; and A.N.R. Robinson, Tobago House of Assembly.

Mr Chambers, in his capacity as Minister of Finance and Planning, will be chairman of the Commission. Other members include the Ministers of Agriculture, Labour, Industry and Commerce, Energy and Natural Resources, State Enterprises and the Minister with responsibility for Tobago Affairs. The Governor of the Central Bank is also a member and the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Planning is member-secretary.

The task of the Commission is to consider the report of the Multi-Sectoral Task Force headed by Economist William Demas, president of the Caribbean Development Bank.

CSO: 3298/050

COLUMNIST DISCUSSES PT. LISAS PLANTS, MARKETING ISSUES

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 11 Sep 83 p 3

[Text]

GOVERNMENT'S iron and steel (ISCOTT) 'white elephant' is shortly to be joined by two other major projects that are facing the prospect of also becoming 'white elephants'.

Technology is not the problem. It is marketing. Or the lack of it. Thus, on the basis of a gloomy outlook for the immediate and medium-term marketing future, this herd of 'white elephants' at Point Lisas, could become a circus of horrors for the Trinidad and Tobago economy.

The two plants approaching completion will be geared to make urea and methanol. The first bit of bad news is that the 1980 projected cost of the Urea plant was \$350 million.

By the end of 1982 the figure had inflated by approximately 15 per cent, or an additional \$52 million, pushing the envisaged final cost to over \$400 million.

By the time production of urea begins early in 1984, it would be reasonable to expect that a further \$40 million would have been added to the tally bringing the bottom line figure to a bloated \$440 million,

all of which, one way or another is being met by the ultimate shareholders, the public of Trinidad and Tobago who, insofar as heavy industry at Point Lisas is concerned, have no voice, no rights, and nearly no information.

In 1980, the Methanol plant was supposed to be finished around the middle of 1984, at a cost of \$360 million.

When the project was appraised at the end of 1982, the overrun has sprinted 20 per cent or \$72 million ahead of expectation.

ADJUSTMENT

That meant an upward adjustment to \$432 million. It should surprise no one that the bills will add up to \$480 million by the second quarter of 1984.

Once again, the public is kept so ignorant of what is going on that it doesn't have the slightest idea who are the equipment suppliers, their terms and commissions: who gets the commissions: who is responsible for transportation, and whether any Trinidad and Tobago interests are involved.

Similar questions have been asked time and again of the ISCOTT operation, but until Prime Minister Chambers's scant allusions in his Independence message, the project had been treated with the strictest silence by officialdom.

In fact, as far as public accountability is concerned, ISCOTT and others have been singularly exempt from the financial disclosures that are keenly extracted from less favoured organisations.

INTOXICATION

But it is the critical area of marketing that contains the seeds of great-

est potential grief. Particularly at times of giddy intoxication with new found wealth, young nations tend to feel that progress is largely a matter of impressive rows of huge new industries.

Like magical spells, their very presence is supposed to mean success. Newly independent countries have been stigmatised by this unrealistic approach to development.

In the seventies, nascent States blessed with oil, set the pace by indulging their very natural desire to become mighty, by the unnatural course of building rows upon rows of almost similar plants.

These were invariably headed by petroleum based units, or others that made use of abundant energy. Thus, from the Middle East to the East Indies and Caribbean, everyone was busy erecting refineries, petrochemical complexes and steel plants. Aluminium smelting frequently entered the equation.

In those brief, heady years, the boom in the developing countries blinded them from the steadily growing contraction of host markets. In any event, the array of new petro-industries was still under construction.

Suddenly, all the plants in all the developing nations are coming on stream, simultaneously and the vague notion that someone out there, will always buy the products, is exposed as an irresponsible figment of national self delusion.

The concept and implementation of development at Point Lisas, fit snugly into this mould.

Methanol and Urea are part of our version of the vaunted petrochemical emblems of state honour. Steel was already in place.

Aluminium and other 'props' were waiting to be installed, but instead of a grandiose show, a bizarre circus is emerging.

Steel is in trouble, with little hope for an instant bail-out by the C.B.I. The marketing of Methanol at one stage looked promising in those halcyon years when it seemed prices were ever rising, and just about anything could be flogged. Pre-selling had produced buyers for 60 per cent. of intended production.

A West German firm bearing the initials of "U.R.B.K.," agreed to take 20 per cent., with similar quantities

going to Mitsui of the USA, and Yenneco, also of USA.

However, the rosy blush of these long contracts has been rudely discoloured by tumbling world prices resulting from pervasive and persistent recession.

The upshot is that the Point Lisas plant certainly has substantial contracts, and quite likely, will fulfil them. But because of the tragic drop in prices, the returns will be uneconomic, and Government propping-up is all but inevitable.

Translation — another burden will be placed on the backs of taxpayers, while highly paid executives, experts and technicians live and work in bureaucratic splendour, producing an item very few people want.

It is ironic that Methanol is an important ingredient (with Butadiene) in making unleaded gasoline. Lead has been outlawed in the US and many other developed countries because of its proven and lasting danger to human life. In Trinidad and Tobago, where Methanol will be produced, there are no known plans for producing lead-free gasoline.

Agrico Chemicals of Tulsa, Oklahoma, is one of the largest chemical fertiliser companies in the world. In the brighter years up 'til recently, the firm was a willing potential recipient of the Urea from the intended plant at Point Lisas. But here again, recessionary conditions have made a mess of good intentions.

As it turns out, fertiliser prices fell so badly in 1982, that Agrico itself sustained a first-ever loss in agricultural chemicals. The fall-out is that the world price for Urea is very depressed, but is showing some signs of picking up, as the US economy begins to show bullish recovery.

Thus, the prospects here, too, are disturbing, to say the least.

This brings us to the crunch, the critical point of marketing. There are relatively few places in the world capable of continuously absorbing large tonnages of Methanol, Urea, or steel, for that matter. When it gets down to the line, the markets lie in one of two major blocs, the East, or the West. Trading with the East, has its problems, as Cuba and Grenada can attest.

By tradition and accepted custom, Trinidad and Tobago is Western-oriented. Our language, music, life style, vacationing and travel habits, trade, and even our migratory trends,

are distinctly Western.

Any doubts about the latter can be laid to rest any morning of the work week when long queues can be seen outside the U.S. Embassy. The Americans are also the principal recipients of our products, our main investors, and chief tourist visitors.

Yet, by reason of curious historical pique, we officially shun the U.S., displaying an almost peevish reluctance lest we appear to be supine, or other than totally independent. Let us face facts — no one is totally independent. It's a world in which people need people.

Being mature, helps. And at 21, our "of-age" country must depart from less mature stances and behaviour patterns, to those of a grown, stable, adult disposition, neither crawling, nor being arrogant. But level and balanced. Neither extreme is acceptable, that of refusing to talk to a US Ambassador, on the one hand; or constantly calling Washington on every matter. Rather, a course of wisdom.

Wisdom would recommend that we let bygones be bygones and that our country immediately launch a well-thought-out and concerted effort to get our Methanol and Urea on the US market principally.

LITIGATION SETTLED

Steel must be lobbied for, even while litigation is being settled. We must start off by making it clear to the US that we wish to have a good, friendly relationship, beneficial to both. Friendship involves genuine interest, not meddling.

Friends talk to each other, offer help when needed, but avoid abusing hospitality and good nature. It is self-respect, and respect of the other person. It is basically communication, and in this connection, we would recommend that Prime Minister Chambers take the initiative, visit 'Ronnie, and then invite the U.S. President to come-see-us when he has the time.

Good relationships at top level, open many other doors and it will be up to our embassies, corporate heads and businessmen, to build a network of bridges to the people we need. Like good friends, we must let them know we are understanding and sympathetic, when they face lean times.

Friendships that endure in hard periods, blossom when times brighten. At Point Lisas, we need more blossoms, and fewer 'white elephants.'

CHAMBERS CRITICIZED FOR QUESTIONABLE ACTIONS, POLICIES

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 9 Sep 83 p 6

[Article by Anthony Milne]

[Text]

IT WAS DIFFICULT to take Prime Minister George Chamber's address to the nation on August 30, entirely seriously, since it is doubtful whether he and his People's National Movement (PNM) Government, who have once again led this country to the point of bankruptcy, have the moral authority to ask the people of Trinidad and Tobago to tighten their belts. It seems that few have paid any attention to his previous calls for stringency, and it is unlikely that anyone will take him seriously now—although some of what he is saying may be important.

Without looking up once from his script as he addressed the nation on the eve of Trinidad and Tobago's 21st anniversary of independence, the Prime Minister exhorted the citizens of this country to introduce into their personal lives sound methods of management, something the PNM has failed to introduce into its administration of this country during the last 27 years or so.

Opposition politicians have pointed out that Trinidad and Tobago's problems stem chiefly not from the international recession or falling oil prices, but from the corruption and inefficiency that have been the hallmark of the PNM Government virtually from its inception. How can a Government which allows one of its former Ministers to run away with several million dollars belonging to the people of this country be taken seriously?

What has the PNM done to create the high standard of living which many of our citizens now enjoy? Has the PNM not perhaps been the one drawback to the whole process? And is it not true that the people who have suffered most from the Government's incompetence and inability to provide acceptable public services are the very people—the dispossessed—whom the PNM claims to represent?

In fact, it is said that the public institutions of this country have been in a state of steady decline during the stewardship of the PNM. Witness the appalling state of the hospitals, the libraries, the public utilities, education, and almost everything else you can think of.

Besides, Chambers no doubt realizes now that the scales have fallen from the people's eyes, the tables are turning, and he no longer has the mandate he spoke of so proudly up to a few weeks ago—is this why he was unable to look up during his address?

The people of this country voted overwhelmingly against the PNM in the local government election of August 8, in spite of the scandalous obstructions placed in their way by the Elections and Boundaries Commission, and there is not the slightest doubt that this is a sign of things to come. Both the PNM and the opposition parties accepted that the

local government election was a referendum to ask the people of this country how they felt about the PNM's performance in Government—and the people have spoken.

It is now evident that the PNM is a wounded beast that will thrash about in what may be its death agony, between now and the next general election. It will claw at anyone and anything within its reach, and as the people of Trinidad and Tobago begin to turn against the PNM, the Government will turn against them.

Besides the questionable use of figures about gasoline consumption pointed out recently by a columnist in the SUNDAY EXPRESS, witness for example Chambers's questionable explanation of the origin of some of Iscott's problems, which it may soon be true to describe as the final monument to the folly of Dr Eric Williams.

After telling us that Iscott had cost the people of this country (for it is we who pay for it) \$1,040 million to establish, that it had lost nearly \$220 million during the last two years, and that its days might be numbered, he went on to say: "You will note that this figure is significantly lower than that which has been prominently reported in the local press and even read into the records of Parliament."

"I cannot deplore too strongly the fact that such uninformed and irresponsible statements have been seized upon by Iscott's competitors in the United States market who have taken formal action which, if successful, can virtually shut us out of this important market. Such an outcome would place the nation's investment in jeopardy, and would have been aided by the failure of some of us to distinguish between the national interest and political self-interest."

This is not true; and the Prime Minister seemed to be making use of a nation-wide broadcast for political campaigning—even though it is several weeks too late. On top of that, this was an unwarranted attack on the national press (one of Chambers's favourite targets now that his party's star is declining), not to mention the opposition. The responsibility for the nightmare that Iscott is becoming falls squarely in the Government's lap. They went ahead with this project against warnings and protests from several quarters.

THREE PARTNERS

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago had three partners in the steel mill when the project began: the Mitsui Steel Company and the

Kawasaki Steel Company, both of Japan, and the Hoogovens-Estel Corporation, a Dutch-German firm. These companies pulled out after a short time, apparently because of a disagreement over the type of product to be produced by the mill. When asked about the suspected lack of feasibility of this project Dr Williams replied, "What they want us to do, pitch marbles?"

In his address the Prime Minister went on to say, "Neither in Trinidad and Tobago nor internationally did the consensus of informed opinion anticipate the deep recessionary conditions in the world economy which resulted in the actual price of wire rods, Iscott's main product, being lower in 1983 than in 1975."

Yet there were articles in this newspaper as far back as 1978 (work on the steel mill began in 1977) asking about the viability of Iscott; and in 1979 Michael de la Bastide spoke in the Senate about the "severe doubts and reservations which current forecasts for the world economy aroused regarding the prospects of Iscott." The Government apparently remained undaunted. De la Bastide also spoke about the risks of incurring accusations of lack of patriotism by asking questions of the Government about projects like Iscott. In 1983 we are being told about the excessive freedom of the press.

As far as Chambers's specific charges are concerned, not only has the Government consistently refused to release figures on Iscott, thus giving rise to the speculation he spoke about (after all, it is the people's right to know what is happening to their money), but the figures quoted by the opposition and the press are not so wrong after all.

Reports in the press have indicated, for example, that Iscott costs this country \$20 million per month.

This is \$240 million per year. Chambers's figures were \$262 million for one year, and \$220 million for the next. Other reports have indicated that Iscott costs \$1 million per day, or \$365 million per year. That is an exaggeration of some 30 per cent.

Chambers neglected to comment on the further charge made by the opposition that this sum of \$20 million per month comes from the National Insurance Board (NIB) to which citizens of this country have contributed over the years without getting very much in return. Does the Government have the right to subsidize its folly in this manner? Meanwhile, it remains difficult to get key people in Iscott to talk about the company.

The Prime Minister also spoke of the way in which the constitutional rights and the independence of the judiciary have been preserved in this country. One has to wonder whether

these things, like so many others, still exist because, or in spite, of the PNM.

Everyone can remember the action the Prime Minister and his Attorney General took just a few weeks ago with regard to Justice Lennox Deyalsingh's judgement in a constitutional case. It will also be remembered that what the learned judge said in his judgement was that the constitutional rights of a citizen of this country had been abused by agents of the PNM Government.

With regard to the removal of part of the subsidy for gasoline implemented by the last Budget, the Prime Minister said sternly, "Sales of gasoline, too, have continued to increase and are about five per cent higher than a year ago in spite of the drastic reduction of the subsidy borne by the Exchequer."

Apart from the information supplied about these figures by the SUNDAY EXPRESS columnist, this was the first time we heard that we were being asked to reduce our consumption of gasoline. One assumed that the Prime Minister would have been pleased when we bought more gasoline, since this would help prop up his financially weak administration.

We have not been told that there is a shortage of gasoline, so why is the Prime Minister worried by the amount of gasoline we consume? He was clearly taking in front with regard to a further decrease in the

gasoline subsidy, which means the price of gasoline will soon go up again. All these measures were spoken about by the opposition parties during the local government election campaign.

They correctly predicted these measures would be implemented immediately after, and not before, the election. Had the PNM done better in the election the Prime Minister could say he had the will of the people behind him. This is clearly not true any more.

All the Prime Minister's talk about committees and reports in his address makes us believe he is living in the same fictitious world inhabited by his predecessor while in fact not very much is done. That is a great misfortune.

All these difficulties are taking place against a background of rumours about a power struggle within the PNM, in which Chambers is said to be being challenged for the leadership by at least one other high-ranking person in the Government. This adds to the problem of credibility, for while all the rumours about this may not be true, where there smoke there certainly is fire.

The rumours say the Prime Minister has lost the confidence of some of his colleagues. One wonders how all the hard-core members of the PNM, who transferred the personal cult of Dr Williams to George Chambers, feel about these goings-on. That may very well be the crux of the matter.

CHAMBERS DISCUSSES ISCOTT; NEW PROPOSALS INTRODUCED

Prime Minister's Views

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 8 Sep 83 pp 1, 3

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER
George Chambers expressed a deep and growing concern about the Iron and Steel Company of Trinidad and Tobago in his Independence message last week.

Quoting figures for the first time, Prime Minister Chambers stated sombrely that ISCOTT's losses for 1982 and up to June this year were \$482 million.

Even so, he said, this loss was "significantly lower" than what has been prominently reported in the local press and even read into the records of Parliament. The point is, he said, such "irresponsible statements" have been seized by ISCOTT's competitors in the United States market who have taken formal action which, if successful, can virtually shut us out of this important market.

Expressing it as the second major concern of the Government today, Mr. Chambers said:

"The second matter is the status of the Iron and Steel Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (ISCOTT)." I wish to state emphatically that the Government did not undertake this venture as a prestige project. On the country's the rationale stems firstly from the country's endowment of substantial reserves of natural gas and the imperative to utilise this basic new material to generate income and wealth for the

country and, secondly, from a conscious decision to reduce the exclusive dependence of the economy on oil.

This explains the thrust to utilise this resource both as a feedstock and as an energy source to produce a new range of commodities both for export and for utilisation in downstream industries in Trinidad and Tobago. One of the first such industries to be established was the manufacture of iron and steel which is a dramatic departure in industrial development for a small country such as Trinidad and Tobago.

The Government necessarily had to be the prime mover over the last decade in undertaking such investments owing to the size of the capital expenditure, the waiting period for such investments to show a return and the fact that only the Government had the capacity to raise funds on the required scale.

The total capital expenditure in establishing ISCOTT as an operating entity was \$1,040 million, which was financed partly from equity contributions of \$468 million and by borrowings specifically related to the venture of \$572 million. In addition, certain start-up costs of a totalled \$139 million, although the actual capital cost exceeded the planned amount by 27 per cent, the venture was still expected to yield an accepta-

ble return on the funds invested.

It is interesting to note in this connection, that although the international steel industry has been experiencing difficulties in recent years, particularly in the U.S.A., mini-mills such as ISCOTT based on newer technology have been competing very successfully and increasing their market share.

At the time the investment decision was taken, it was well understood that the company would need time to become proficient in steel-making and would therefore incur a deficit in its initial years - as is usually the case with investments of this scale.

However, neither in Trinidad and Tobago nor internationally, did the consensus of informed opinion anticipate the deep recessionary conditions in the world economy which resulted in the actual price of wire rods, ISCOTT's main product, being lower in 1983 than in 1975.

Because of the depressed prices and the strong protectionist pressures in overseas markets - often not related to financial or economic factors - ISCOTT's need for support from the shareholder has increased at a time of financial stringency. ISCOTT's losses in its fiscal year ending July, 1982, was \$262 million and for the eleven months ended June, 1983, was \$220 million.

These figures include the payment of withholding tax in respect of foreign debt. You will note that this figure is significantly lower than that which has been prominently reported in the local press and even read into the records of Parliament.

IRRESPONSIBLE

I cannot deplore too strongly the fact that such uninformed and irresponsible statements have been seized upon by ISCOTT's competitors in the United States market who have taken formal action which, if successful, can virtually shut us out of this important market.

Such an outcome would

place the nation's investment in jeopardy, and would have been aided by the failure of some of us to distinguish between the national interest and political self-interest.

The Cabinet, concerned that losses of the company were higher than originally anticipated, appointed a team of senior public officials this year to consider all options, including cessation of operations of the company.

ANALYSIS

The Committee's analysis revealed that the alternatives of closing down the company or moth-balling

the plant would be more costly for the shareholder and, therefore, ultimately for the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Committee has recommended that ISCOTT should be maintained as a going concern subject to certain changes in the planned level of production and tighter control of costs. It has also recommended that shareholder financial support should not exceed \$140 million in 1983.

The committee's report is now engaging the attention of the Finance and Economics Committee of the Cabinet prior to its consideration by the Full Cabinet.

Committee Recommendations

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 11 Sep 83 p 1

[Text]

PURSUING the cheaper alternative of maintaining the Iron and Steel Company (ISCOTT) as a going concern, the Government expects to accept all of the recommendations by a committee of senior public servants, which urge that ISCOTT be kept under stringent financial wraps.

The committee, appointed by Cabinet, specifically to consider all options on ISCOTT, has recommended that the firm's performance be monitored on a continuing basis.

At the same time, it has advised that the Government exercise financial stringency in managing expenditure in such areas as capital expenditure, employee cost, working capital, and consultancy contracts.

The team which included Mr. Frank Barsotti, Permanent Secretary in the Minis-

try of Finance, and Dr. Euric Bobb, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank, also recommended that the post of Chief Executive Officer at ISCOTT, be filled.

It also recommended that limits be set on the amount of funds which Government should provide ISCOTT.

This recommendation followed in the wake of the Government bankrolling the company's losses of \$482 million up to the end of June, this year.

In order to bolster revenue, the committee recommended that ISCOTT should pursue an active campaign to obtain markets for its products outside the United States.

It also recommended lobbying the U.S. Government, and Japan, as well as pursuing the strategy of bartering.

ISCOTT, says the committee, should also explore the possibility of joint venture downstream operations.

While pointing out that it would be more expensive to close or mothball ISCOTT, taking into account the interest charges on loans, the committee recommended, that the company's capital structure be reorganised.

The committee's report is being considered by the Finance and Economics Committee of the Cabinet before it goes before the entire Cabinet for consideration.

Earlier this year, it was revealed in an International Monetary Fund (IMF) document, titled "Trinidad and Tobago's recent Economic Developments" that ISCOTT has been experiencing production, marketing and managerial problems since it began operating, August, 1980.

The document, prepared by a team of IMF officials also noted what they termed a "technical imbalance" between ISCOTT'S sponge iron annual production of one million metric tons and the output of its melt-cast shop of 750,000 metric tons.

CSO: 3298/049

CARICOM PAYMENTS TO CMCF LAG; NEIGHBORS CRITICIZED

Dormancy of CMCF

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 14 Sep 83 p 1

[Article by Andy Johnson]

[Text]

THE September 15 (tomorrow) deadline for member governments to pay up at least 50 per cent of their debts to the Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility will go by the wayside because the facility has not yet been reactivated.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the CMCF, Victor Bruce, said last night that all the conditions for the reactivation of the facility were not yet adhered to and as such the facility remained dormant.

Consequent upon conditions laid down at the July Heads of Government Conference in Port of Spain, countries with debts outstanding in the facility were to have met up to 50 per cent of their debts by tomorrow.

Bruce is Governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago and together with his colleagues in the region they comprise the governing body for the CMCF.

He said, when contacted on the issue, that there were no payments into the facility since the July summit set up a num-

ber of conditions for the facility to be reactivated. The facility has been suspended since the beginning of 1983 after it reached the credit limit of \$100 million (US), with economically hardpressed countries such as Guyana owing heavily.

The CMCF is the facility which allows Caricom member states to do business among themselves on a deferred payments basis for up to six months. Bruce said last night that no meeting of the Board of Governors took place since the July resolution and none had been planned, until all the conditions set out in the agreement among heads of government had been met.

He said, however, that trading among Caricom member states was taking place and payments were being made on a bilateral basis. He said there was no crisis existing in the absence of the CMCF. "It is merely a matter of more paper work," he said.

COMPLAINING

The government of Barbados has been complaining that about the fact that that country was owed about \$42 million (US) through transactions in the CMCF. Under the terms of the agreement worked out, some of that debt was to be repaid through a paper transaction made possible by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of Guyana.

Nothing has come of it, however, with the CMCF remaining dormant. Bruce said that he would call a meeting of the Board of Governors as soon as he had some indication that all the conditions for restarting the facility were met. He did not know how soon that would be.

Meanwhile, the Committee of Ministers responsible for Finance in Caricom is scheduled to meet in Port of Spain on Monday to study issues relating to the meeting of the Commonwealth Finance Ministers which opens at the Trinidad Hilton on Tuesday.

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 15 Sep 83 p 6

[Editorial]

[Text]

WHEN THE COMMITTEE of CARICOM Finance Ministers gather in Port of Spain on Monday for a preamble to the Commonwealth Finance Ministers meeting here next week, one of the issues that Trinidad and Tobago should raise, and seriously, is whether we are being taken for a ride (not for the first time) by our CARICOM partners.

We refer to the agreements struck at the CARICOM Heads of Government conference last July on reactivating the CARICOM Multilateral Clearing Facility and which, to date, appear to have been ignored by our regional partners. Specifically, it was agreed that the governments which owed the CMCF money would meet at least 50 per cent of those debts by a deadline of September 15, which happens to be today.

But up to yesterday none of the debtor governments had done so. And, we suspect, none of the governments involved have even bothered to explain why they have failed to meet the deadline--though we expect that we will hear some excuses on Monday.

INDICATION

As it is, the CMCF is owed a total of US\$100 million. Guyana alone

owes at least US\$50 million to the fund with the rest being shared by the governments of the smaller Eastern Caribbean territories. The CMCF in itself was designed to allow CARICOM members some breathing space in meeting trade and other payments by allowing a deferral of those payments for at least six months.

The fund came to a screeching halt when the ceiling figure of US\$100 million was struck. It will be recalled that Barbados was one of the countries that last July made a great deal of fuss about being owed money by Guyana. And the Trinidad and Tobago Government, ever generous to its regional partners, pledged to contribute US\$12.2 million to keep the fund going.

We can only assume that Trinidad and Tobago has also held up on its pledge, and should continue to do so until there is some indication of the intentions of the debtor governments. It may very well be that the CMCF can no longer work since most of the regional governments, including Trinidad and Tobago, are coming under increasing financial strain.

That, however, does not let the debtor countries off the hook.

Perhaps more importantly, this is not the first

time that CARICOM members have made promises, usually of a monetary nature, and then reneged on them. Trinidad and Tobago has had a particularly bad time of this because, fortunately, we have been in a better position than most, if not all, of our neighbours, able to provide loans through the Oil Facility and to meet our payments to regional institutions like the University of the West Indies and the CMCF.

Unfortunately, that is not the case today. In a new era of declining oil production, reduced refinery throughput and softer prices for oil, the Government now finds itself facing huge budgetary deficits. Basic cash flow has in fact already become a problem and we may have to borrow much more heavily in the next fiscal year in order to keep our heads above water.

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance George Chambers indicated as much in his blunt address at the formal opening of the Heads of Government conference last July. But if some CARICOM members were not sufficiently impressed

then, and would go so far as to agree to certain measures and then blithely ignore them, we ought to be even more blunt. We certainly can expect little or no aid at all from our regional partners. If Trinidad and Tobago found itself in the severe financial straits being experienced by Guyana, we are certain that we will have to paddle our own canoe.

What we cannot continue to do, however, is commit ourselves any further to financial pledges unless and until our regional partners show an equal degree of commitment. The taxpayers of Trinidad and Tobago, who are being asked to tighten their belts, cannot be expected to sit back and allow the country's Treasury to be bled in the interest of regionalism.

This is not to deny the value of the regional integration movement. But Mr Thomas Gatliffe is right when he says, as he did at a Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC) meeting, this week that what is hampering the integration movement is the lack of will to resolve what are in fact problems created by ourselves.

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